Here is Houston
THE OFFICIAL RELOCATION & NEWCOMER GUIDE

HOUSING
EDUCATION
HEALTH CARE
BUSINESS
THE ARTS
ATTRACTIONS
DINING
+MORE!

FALL/WINTER 2020
Everything's Going South.
Welcome to Texas.

DouglasElliman
RELOCATION SPECIALIST
Anne Incorvia
713.561.6829
anne.incorvia@elliman.com
elliman.com/texas

AUSTIN . DALLAS . HOUSTON . THE WOODLANDS
MEET YOUR NEW COMMUTE

METRO’s Star Vanpool is the time and money-saving alternative to driving. Instead of wasting the day in rush hour traffic, improve your commute by traveling on our region’s HOV network, while avoiding traffic and promoting cleaner air.

Star Vanpools reduce vehicle miles traveled in the Houston region by 48 million miles per year.

Passengers can text, listen to music, sleep, or just enjoy time to focus on the day ahead when they are not participating as the driver.
Riders (usually 5 to 15 per vanpool) share the cost of the van, fuel, maintenance, parking and tolls. Employers often help defray these costs.

A dedicated METRO Star Vanpool team works directly with riders to design a route tailored to their commute, using HOV and diamond lanes to reduce travel times, and to help commuters find others interested in the program. METRO also works with employers to promote and support Star Vanpool routes.

Registered riders are eligible for a guaranteed ride home in case of emergency. For information on how to start or join a vanpool, email us at Star@RideMETRO.org, call 713-224-RIDE (7433).

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS! Encouraging your employees to share a ride will help them arrive on time, reduce their drive-time stress, and ease congestion on the road and in your company’s parking lot. There are also tax benefits to you and your employee when you share the cost of the ride. Launching your company’s program is free and easy. Just contact us at 713-244-RIDE (7433) or Star@RideMETRO.org, and we’ll take it from there.

ATTENTION EMPLOYEES! On average, it will cost you $4 to $10 per day to ride in a METRO Star Vanpool (even less if your employer provides a transportation benefit). This estimate is based on the number of miles from the Star Vanpool meeting place to your work site and includes van lease, liability insurance, 24/7 roadside assistance, routine maintenance and repairs, gasoline, parking and toll costs.

Learn more at StarVanpool.com, send an email to Star@RideMETRO.org or call 713-224-RIDE (7433).
Allen Parkway
One of Houston’s beautiful thoroughfares is named after its founding brothers. For more see page 16.

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For more information on Houston CityBook, please visit houstoncitybook.com or contact Jeff Gremillion at 832-514-3001 ext 101 or jeff@houstoncitybook.com.

Houston CityBook Managing Editor—Evan Black; Houston CityBook Creative Director—Patrick Magee
Bernstein Realty is a full service residential real estate company serving all areas of Houston in all price ranges. Since 1985, Bernstein Realty has assisted individuals and families make a smooth and successful move to and from Houston and the surrounding areas. We look forward to being of service to you and welcoming you to our diverse and vibrant city, Houston, Texas!
As Governor of Texas, I am pleased to extend greetings to readers of Here is Houston. Whether you are relocating your business, planning a corporate gathering, or simply rediscovering the Bayou City, I invite you to explore all the possibilities this great Texas city has to offer.

With our business-friendly climate and spirit of innovation, Texas boasts the strongest economy in the United States and the 12th largest economy in the world. We are a state with low taxes and reasonable regulations, and a nationwide leader in economic growth and job creation.

Houston is an essential component of our thriving economy. Home to a world-class workforce, cutting-edge medical research, premier art museums, thrilling professional sports, outstanding universities, and friendly and diverse neighbors, this dynamic city is one of the Lone Star State’s finest. The Port of Houston and accessibility of the area’s airport and highway systems also make the Houston area an undeniable leader in international trade opportunities.

As you may know, the road I traveled to become Texas’ governor took me through Houston — my very first election was as a judge in the 129th District Court.

Whether you are moving here to grow your business, pursue career opportunities, attend school, or enjoy your retirement, I know Houston’s legendary charm will provide a wonderful experience.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in sending best wishes and welcoming you to explore the great City of Houston.
REFINED FOR LIFE

Just 20 minutes southwest of downtown Houston, Sugar Land is where small town charm meets cosmopolitan flair. Beautiful master-planned communities, top-notch schools and first-class shopping, dining, recreational and cultural offerings make life sweet here.

To learn more, contact:
Elizabeth Huff
Director of Economic Development
City of Sugar Land
281.275.2229 | ecodev@sugarlandtx.gov
www.sugarlandecodev.com
You have joined more than four million others who make Harris County their home, making it the third most populous county in the nation, with more residents than 24 states. As Harris County Judge, it is my pleasure to welcome you.

I invite you to enjoy our museums, libraries, theater district, shopping malls, sports teams and amazing restaurants that are the result of the cultural diversity of our residents. You will find your new neighbors to be friendly, genuine and quick to lend a hand. Our can-do attitude is contagious.

Harris County is a special place. All of us in county government are glad you are here.

Sincerely,
A CITY THAT TAKES ON HUMANKIND’S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES

AMERICA’S GATEWAY TO INNOVATION

From leading the global energy transition to pioneering life-saving medical breakthroughs, Houston is solving the problems that matter.
Greetings. You are going to love living in Houston. We are the most diverse city in the nation — a city with an entrepreneurial spirit and a city where you can achieve your dreams.

Houston is still the Energy Capital of the World, but our economy has diversified over the years to include technology, medicine, and manufacturing and shipping.

Whether it’s our world-class restaurants, theaters, museums, shopping, thrilling sports teams, or the new Independence Plaza at the Johnson Space Center which houses the world’s first and only replica of the space shuttle/carrier, Houston has it all. Together, these qualities create the ideal city in which to live, work and play.

*Here is Houston* can be an invaluable source of information as you prepare for your relocation. It showcases every aspect of living and working in the city of Houston.

We look forward to having you as a Houstonian!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

MAYOR SYLVESTER TURNER

CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS
From its founding in 1836 by two brothers at the confluence of Buffalo and White Oak Bayous, Houston has valued and cultivated risk takers and big dreamers.

Just think about some of our extraordinary achievements: the Port of Houston, a deepwater port built 50 miles from the Gulf — now the nation’s largest foreign tonnage port; the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world and the birthplace of such innovations as the artificial heart — now a leader in cancer research and treatment, genetics and children’s health; and, of course, Johnson Space Center, home to NASA’s manned spacecraft efforts, now working to put humans back on the moon.

All of this speaks to a basic truth: Houston is a city of opportunity for both businesses and hard-working individuals with a “can-do” attitude. Nearly one-in-four of the region’s 7 million residents is foreign-born, and more than 145 languages are spoken here, making this the most diverse city in the nation. That extraordinary diversity feeds into our culture, our food, our celebrations and our way of life. Our low cost of living has also helped us attract one of the youngest and most educated workforces in the nation.

When you combine that population with our strong international, cultural and trade ties, plus a significant number of multinational Fortune 500 companies, you understand why Houston is a great global city. For many years, we were competing with Denver, Atlanta or Dallas. But today Houston is competing and connecting with Shanghai, London, New York, Dubai and Beijing, all great global cities.

Whether you’re an entrepreneur seeking urban charm or an engineer looking for a family-friendly community, you’ll no doubt find it here, along with world-class arts, culture, dining and amenities.

Welcome to Houston!
ALL ABOUT HOUSTON
ALL ABOUT HOUSTON

Hermann Park
McGovern Centennial Gardens, shot from above

PHOTO BY TOMMY TENZO
LOTS OF FOLKS think Texas is just cowboys, cactus and cattle. But Houston will surprise you with everything else it has to offer: The nine-county metro region is the largest in the southern U.S. Here, you’ll find the perfect mix of Southern hospitality and urban sophistication; of hole-in-the-wall hot spots and cutting-edge culinary prowess; and of big business and unbreakable entrepreneurial spirit. The Bayou City also boasts a number of waterways and public parks, making it a verdant hub for those who wish to live an active lifestyle. Read on to learn more.
most populous city in the nation (trailing only New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago), and Houston is the largest in the southern U.S. and in Texas. Houston is expected to rise to No. 3 by the end of the decade.

If Houston were an independent nation, it would rank as the world’s 26th largest.

The square mileage of Harris County, enough space to fit the cities of Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New York and Seattle — with room to spare.

25% of Houstonians were born outside the U.S.

95 The number of city blocks linked by an underground tunnel system in Downtown, featuring food courts, shopping and more.

THE HOUSTON AREA

The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (Houston MSA) is comprised of nine counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller. It covers 9,444 square miles, an area slightly smaller than Maryland and larger than Massachusetts.

ANNUAL WEATHER

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<th>HIGH</th>
<th>LOW</th>
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<td>72°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>72°F</td>
<td>50°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>65°F</td>
<td>43°F</td>
<td>3.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOUfact!

The city’s tree canopy, made up of 33 million trees according to a 2017 report from the USDA, covers nearly 20 percent of the city. Houston trees save $54 million in residential energy costs and avoided power emissions each year.

By the Numbers

4th most populous city in the nation (trailing only New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago), and Houston is the largest in the southern U.S. and in Texas. Houston is expected to rise to No. 3 by the end of the decade.

The Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land Metropolitan Statistical Area (Houston MSA) is comprised of nine counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller. It covers 9,444 square miles, an area slightly smaller than Maryland and larger than Massachusetts.

The square mileage of Harris County, enough space to fit the cities of Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, New York and Seattle — with room to spare.

25% of Houstonians were born outside the U.S.

95 The number of city blocks linked by an underground tunnel system in Downtown, featuring food courts, shopping and more.
Founded in 1836, Houston is far younger than its counterparts like New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Los Angeles — yet it is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Houston’s population now ranks fourth in the nation, with more than 2.3 million people living within the city limits, and about 7 million living in the greater metro area. Why the accelerated growth in a relatively short period of time? Why do so many people want to become Houstonians?

Part of the answer lies in Houston’s can-do entrepreneurial spirit. From the city’s start as an oil capital, Houston has valued and cultivated risk-takers and big dreamers. This attitude has taken H-Town beyond oil, resulting in the existence of influential tours de force like the Port of Houston (the nation’s second-largest in total tonnage), the Texas Medical Center (the world’s largest medical complex, and one of the most renowned) and the Johnson Space Center (home of NASA).

And despite the extensive influence and great success of the oil and gas industry, of the more than 135,000 business establishments that reside here, only about 4,800 are tied to energy. Other notable industries are business services, medical and biotechnology, aviation and aerospace, information technology, and manufacturing. There is room for all kinds of talent here! Today, 26 of the Fortune 500 companies have their headquarters in Houston, and more than
half of the world’s 100 largest foreign-based corporations operate here.

Another factor in Houston’s success is its affordable cost of living, aided by the absence of city or state income tax. According to the Council for Community and Economic Research’s Cost of Living Index for 2018, Houston has the third lowest cost of living among the nation’s 20 most populous metropolitan areas — far less than the national average.

And because Houston opens its arms to all newcomers — after all, “Texas” originates from the Caddo Indian word for “friend” — the fast-growing city is home to an amazingly diverse population from many countries, and to more than 90 different spoken languages. A true cultural mosaic, Houston boasts restaurants, shops, neighborhoods and festivals that reflect its many international influences.

Dynamic, prosperous and always on the move, Houston prides itself on being on the cutting edge of new technologies and innovations in architecture, infrastructure and design. Take the Astrodome, the world’s first air-conditioned domed arena, for example, or Discovery Green, the 12-acre, eco-friendly Downtown park and event venue situated among soaring skyscrapers. As one of the country’s top-10 cities for green-technology innovation, Houston boasts more than 366 municipal parks and an additional 200 green spaces.

And luckily, getting around this beautiful city has never been more efficient, with a sophisticated highway system, a powerful airport trifecta covering public, private and military air travel needs, and an ongoing effort to make transportation upgrades — including light rail, bus rapid transit, commuter rail, and improved suburban bus services.

Whether you’re coming to visit or making Houston your permanent home, we think you’ll be delighted by what you find here in this bustling global hub.
AGE & ETHNICITY
The Face of Houston

The 2018 American Community Survey estimates showed that no racial or ethnic group constitutes a majority of Houston MSA population. The Houston MSA contains the nation’s fourth-largest Hispanic population. Its Hispanic population of more than 2.6 million in 2018 is larger than the total populations of 15 states and the District of Columbia. Between 2010 and 2018, the greater Houston area population increased by 17.1 percent. The non-white population drove the bulk of this growth — the Asian population increased by 39.8 percent, and the Hispanic/Latino population by 24.3 percent.

2018 AGE DISTRIBUTION
(Houston’s median age of 34.4 is the lowest of the nation’s major metro areas.)

<table>
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<th>METRO AREA</th>
<th>MEDIAN AGE</th>
<th>0–14 YEARS</th>
<th>15–24 YEARS</th>
<th>25–34 YEARS</th>
<th>45–54 YEARS</th>
<th>55–64 YEARS</th>
<th>65 AND OVER</th>
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<td>22.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
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<td>11.2</td>
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<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>28.2</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<td>19.7</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>11.6</td>
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<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>13.9</td>
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<td>19.2</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>14.9</td>
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<td>12.2</td>
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<td>17.0</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>12.3</td>
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<td>United States Average</td>
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<td>27.1</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>18.2</td>
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Note: Sums may not total due to rounding. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey

2018 HOUSTON MSA POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2018 American Community Survey
AIRPORT & HIGHWAY TRAVEL

Houston is sprawling — but thanks to a robust airport and highway system, it’s easier than ever to navigate the city.

AIRPORT AND HIGHWAY TRAVEL

The Houston area is served by two major airports: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). Houston’s largest airport, IAH, is located about 23 miles north of Downtown, and ranks as America’s 14th-busiest airport. During normal operations, more than 650 flights depart daily from IAH, which offers service to more Mexican destinations than any other U.S. airport, as well as nonstop routes to 70-plus international cities. In 2019, IAH was named the fourth-best airport by aviation site SkyTrax.

Meanwhile, Hobby Airport is located about seven miles south of Downtown, and offers nonstop flights to more than 65 destinations throughout the country. It’s also a regional center for corporate and private aviation. A third site, Ellington Airport (EFD), is a joint-use civil and military airport serving the needs of the U.S. military, NASA and general aviation. Ellington is also the site of the Houston Spaceport.

Through a partnership with the City of Houston’s Civic Art Program, the Houston Airport System houses one of the largest collections of public art in the state of Texas. The airport system has collected dozens of commissioned and donated works that are showcased throughout its facilities. The artwork — sculptures, photographs, lighting installations and more — provides value to the identity of Houston as a truly international city. For more about flying to and from Houston, visit the Houston Airport System’s website at fly2houston.com.

HIGHWAY TRAVEL

Houston is the crossroads for interstate highways 10 and 45. Other major highways serving the area are Interstate 610, I-69 (U.S. 59), U.S. 90, U.S. 290, Texas 99, Texas 146, Texas 225, Texas 249, Texas 288, Hardy Toll Road, Westpark Tollway and Beltway 8.

Houston TranStar is a lifesaver for anyone wanting to avoid congested roadways. Monitoring traffic incidents with more than 730 regional closed-circuit cameras, TranStar dispatches vehicles to remove debris or hazardous materials, communicates with emergency vehicles about accident scenes, and sends tow trucks to stalled vehicles. Dynamic message signs and a robust website inform the public about expected travel times and traffic-related issues.

Visit houstontranstar.org to see real-time traffic maps and choose the best routes to take to avoid traffic.
The Houston region’s light rail service, METRORail, delivers safe, reliable, affordable and convenient public transit. The Red Line — the line that most visitors find useful — runs between Downtown, Midtown, the Museum District, the Medical Center and NRG Park. The Purple and Green Lines primarily serve residential neighborhoods and the University of Houston.

**METRORail**
The Houston region’s light rail service, METRORail, delivers safe, reliable, affordable, and convenient public transit. The Red Line — the line that most visitors find useful — runs south from the Near Northside through Downtown, Midtown, the Museum District, the Medical Center and NRG Park. The Purple Line and Green Line run east-west and primarily serve residential neighborhoods, the University of Houston and Texas Southern University.

**METRO BUS SYSTEM**
METRO has more than 1,200 buses. With an extensive network of routes and park-and-ride facilities helping to ease rush-hour commutes, the METRO Bus System keeps the region moving. METRO is paving the way for a cleaner Houston, with 443 transit diesel-hybrid buses in operation. For nearly two decades, METRO has been working to improve the air we breathe with state-of-the-art technology that reduces nitrogen oxide emissions by more than 50 percent, and offers substantial savings in fuel. Hybrid technology is METRO’s choice for vehicles, and each year, as part of its fleet replacement plan, METRO purchases 100 buses.

**METROLift**
METROLift provides prescheduled, curb-to-curb, shared-ride transportation for persons with disabilities who cannot ride fixed-route bus service. Call METROLift customer service at 713-225-0119 on weekdays, 10am-5pm, to obtain eligibility materials, or download from ridemetro.org.

**HOV LANES**
A High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane is a barrier-protected lane — usually in the median of a freeway — that is open to buses, vanpools/carpools, and motorcycles. The lanes, accessed via freeway or facility ramps, are reversible to accommodate commuters during peak periods of traffic flow. Users must observe occupancy requirements, rules of the road and hours of operation. HOV lanes operate on the Southwest, Gulf, North, Eastex and Northwest freeways, and are open on weekdays, 5am-11am for inbound traffic, and 2pm-8pm for outbound traffic. A minimum occupancy of two people is required on the HOV lane system (a minimum of three is required during morning rush hours on the Northwest HOV lanes). Since 2001, METRO also has operated concurrent-flow Diamond HOV lanes, which are identified by diamond-shaped icons in a lane separated from main-lane traffic by double-solid white lines. These are located on the Katy Freeway between Texas Highway 6 and Texas Highway 99 (Grand Parkway) in Katy.

**PARK & RIDE LOTS**
METRO has 29 park-and-ride lots with more than 33,000 available parking spaces. Direct nonstop service to Downtown, the Texas Medical Center, or other major employment centers in the METRO service area is available from park-and-ride lots. Park-and-ride facilities also serve as staging areas for vanpools and carpools.

**TRANSIT CENTERS**
Transit Centers are sheltered waiting areas located where several bus routes
and/or METRORail converge. The 20 Transit Centers serve as efficient hubs to allow riders from various locations to assemble at a central point to take advantage of express trips or other route-to-route transfers. The clean, safe and comfortable locations provide patrons with a wider selection of destinations through greater transfer opportunities, and offer communities a permanent presence of transit service. Transit Centers feature a mixture of Park & Ride and Local bus service, as well as limited METRORail service. Limited parking — approximately 2,400 spaces — is available at select transit centers.

**METRONEXT**
In late 2019, Houston area voters approved a $3.5 billion bond measure that will help expand transportation infrastructure across the region. The bond passage will fund METRONext, the transit authority’s long-term, strategic plan that totals about 40 projects. Combined with a potential match of $3.5 billion in federal funds and $500 million in other available local funds, the bond will allow for up to $7.5 billion in transit network development. New projects taking shape in coming years will include 75 miles of bus rapid transit, 110 miles of new or improved HOV lanes, upgrades and additions to Park & Ride facilities and an extension of the Purple and Green rail lines to Hobby Airport.

**NORTH LINE**
12.8 miles, 8 stations: The North Line extends the existing Red Line by 12.8 miles, and runs through the heart of Northside — a historic neighborhood, rooted in rail, that came into being with the expansion of the Hardy Rail Lines in the 1880s.

**SOUTHEAST LINE**
6.6 miles, 10 stations: The Southeast Line (Purple Line) begins Downtown and travels southeast along Capitol and Rusk to the Palm Center near MLK and Griggs.

**EAST END LINE**
3.3 miles, 9 stations: The East End Line (Green Line) travels along Harrisburg, from the Magnolia Park Transit Center and through the historic East End to a variety of Downtown entertainment and business destinations.
NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES
Hermann Park: The historic Museum District green space hosts an annual kite festival.
ONCE YOU’VE chosen to call Houston home, you’ll discover a plethora of choices when it comes to housing. Here, you’ll find it all: trendy downtown lofts, family-friendly suburban neighborhoods, near-town bungalows, and master-planned communities. Choose from a wealth of living options in every style, location and price range.

B CYCLE

Need to make a short trip in or around the Downtown area? Houston BCycle offers residents, commuters and visitors a mode of transportation that results in fewer vehicles on the road, meaning less pollution and congestion, and improved mobility. Unlock a bike in seconds using a credit card or a B-card. The BCycle app allows riders to view the location of Houston’s stations, as well as the number of bikes and docks available at each station. Learn more at houston.bcycle.com.
**FAMILY TAX BURDEN**

This map compares the state and local tax burdens of hypothetical households in the largest city in each state. (Therefore, large cities ranking second or third in their state’s populations, like Dallas or San Francisco, are not compared.) The study includes taxes only on personal income, property, sales and automobiles. The average tax burden for a family of three with $75,000 annual income living in the U.S. is $7,099 — 9.5% of household income.

**HOUSTON**

$4,668

6.2%

**U.S. AVERAGE**

$7,199

9.4%


**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

City of Houston
houstontx.org

Harris County
coco.harris.tx.us

Harris County Appraisal District
hcad.org

Houston Association of Realtors
har.com

Houston Chronicle
houston chronicle.com

Houston Independent School District
houstonisd.org

**By the Numbers**

3rd

Houston’s ranking — behind only St. Louis and Charlotte — among the nation’s most affordable large metros, per the Council for Community and Economic Research

$245,000

The median single-family home price in Houston

$29.9

Total dollar volume, in billions, of Houston residential property sales in 2019

2

Houston’s ranking on a list of America’s top housing markets for new homes, per MetroStudy

3

Number of Houston neighborhoods — Cinco Ranch, Sugar Land, The Woodlands — listed among the “best places to live” in Texas, according to Niche
10 DISTRICTS OF DOWNTOWN

More than 65,700 people live in and immediately surrounding Downtown Houston. It’s also the center of the city’s highway system, bordered by Interstate 45 to the south and west, U.S. 59 to the east, and Buffalo Bayou to the north. For more information, visit downtownhouston.org and downtowndistrict.org.

1. BALLPARK DISTRICT Minute Maid Park, the Astros’ retractable-roof stadium housed in a former train station, anchors this section of Downtown. It sits amid several modern loft and office buildings as well as a smorgasbord of great restaurants.

2. CIVIC CENTER DISTRICT The Civic Center District — home to City Hall, Hermann Square Park and the historic Central Library — has been the hub of Houston city government since 1939.

3. CONVENTION DISTRICT Houston’s 1.8 million-square-foot George R. Brown Convention Center hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. The area also boasts a new Marriott Marquis hotel, world-class restaurants, the Toyota Center (home of the Rockets) and Discovery Green.

4. HARRIS DISTRICT It’s fitting for the most populous county in Texas to have a namesake district that’s home to the core of the Harris County government, including the county courts complex.

5. HISTORIC DISTRICT Centuries-old architecture and tree-lined streets with shops, cafes, pubs and lofts provide a unique mix of old and new. Market Square Park and the University of Houston’s Downtown campus keep this area bustling day and night.

6. MEDICAL DISTRICT The southern quadrant of downtown Houston is home to St. Joseph Medical Center and the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral campus.

7. SHOPPING DISTRICT GreenStreet and The Shops at Houston Center’s array of retail, dining and entertainment options, including Houston’s House of Blues, are worth checking out.

8. SKYLINE DISTRICT Ten of Houston’s 26 Fortune 500 companies call the Skyline District home. An extensive network of climate-controlled underground tunnels connects the vast skyscrapers, including the JP Morgan Chase Tower, the tallest building west of the Mississippi.

9. THEATER DISTRICT Houston is one of the few cities in the United States with permanent resident companies in opera, ballet, music and theater. The 17-block Theater District includes nine world-class performing arts venues — plus a few hotels and restaurants to make a whole night out of it. For more information about Houston’s burgeoning performing arts scene, see page 54.

10. WAREHOUSE DISTRICT The Warehouse District, situated just north of Buffalo Bayou, is famous for its funky alternative art scene, with hip dining options, live music, artist lofts and more.
Doing Downtown

Clockwise from top left: The quirky annual Art Car Parade; TUTS' production of 'Memphis'; Discovery Green; smiling for the camera at Minute Maid Park; a cocktail at Rosalie.
IN THE ENCLAVES

Houston’s mix of neighborhoods is diverse and unique. No matter what your priorities are, whether it be location, amenities or great schools, there’s an area in town that is suited for your needs. In the following pages, get to know the area that’s perfect for you and your family. Unless otherwise noted, students in these communities are served by Houston Independent School District (houstonisd.org).

1. BELLAIRE Encompassed by the cities of Houston and West University Place, Bellaire is known for its quiet, tree-lined streets and highly ranked schools. Evelyn’s Park and its all-day café, Betsy’s, is a neighborhood hot spot, while Bellaire-Zindler Park features a pool and tennis courts as well as Bellaire Recreation Center and the Bellaire Civic Center. Nearby Meyerland is the center of Houston’s Jewish community.

2. BRAEBURN/BRAYS OAKS/WESTBURY/SOUTHWEST HOUSTON The Braeburn and Brays Oaks communities, dotted with mid-century mod homes, sit along the north and south banks of Brays Bayou respectively. Expect easy access to 15-plus miles of hike-and-bike trails, as well as the Galleria, Med Center, NRG Stadium and major freeways. Neighboring hoods include Westbury, Willow Meadows-Willowbend and Southwest Houston.

3. CHINATOWN Houston is home to the largest Asian population in the southern United States. The city’s original Chinatown, located just east of Downtown, relocated in the early 1990s to the southwest area of the city. Today, Chinese shopping centers like Hong Kong City Mall, restaurants, bakeries and more sit alongside markets dedicated to Indian, Pakistani and Middle Eastern wares. The area, also known as Asiatown, is complete with street signs featuring Chinese characters.

4. EADO/EAST END East Downtown — known as EaDo — is budding with a diverse and evolving mix of nightlife and art galleries. The area’s walkability is part of the appeal; a day may include a jaunt to the Houston Dynamo stadium and 8th Wonder Brewery, or Agricole Hospitality’s buzzy restaurants. A new METRORail line is in the works to improve connectivity.

5. EAST HOUSTON East Houston is northeast of Downtown, between the 610 Loop and Beltway 8. The area is home to several golf courses, the East Houston Regional Medical Center and the historically black neighborhood of Trinity/Houston Gardens.

6. EASTTEX/JENSEN Eastex/Jensen is a primarily low-income area in North Houston, just north of the 610 Loop bordered by the Hardy Toll Road and U.S. 59.

7. FIFTH WARD Northeast of Downtown, explore the Fifth Ward’s rich musical, artistic and cultural history — including six churches that are more than 100 years old, such as the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, founded by former slave Rev. Toby Gregg in 1865.

8. GALENA PARK Galena Park is located on the north bank of the Houston Ship Channel, just east of the Houston city limits. With a population of around 11,000, the area has a relaxed, rural feel, and is home to lots of public parks, affordable homes and good schools. On the north side of I-10 East, find Northshore and Cloverleaf. Galena Park ISD serves students here.

9. GALLERIA/UPTOWN This area exudes urban sophistication and cosmopolitan energy, Central located in the city’s Uptown district, The Galleria is comprised of hundreds of upscale restaurants and retailers, as well as soaring office towers that see more than 200,000 working professionals and visitors daily. Uptown is also home to many of the city’s largest hotels and boasts an array of housing options. For more information, visit uptown-houston.com. Turn to page 50 to learn more about shopping in Houston.

10. GARDEN OAKS/OAK FOREST Together known as “GOOF,” these neighborhoods are increasingly popular among young families, a trend reflected in the rapid addition of new shopping centers and restaurants in the area. With grand magnolias and large lots, the Garden Oaks community is an architecturally unique area with traditional-style plantation homes and quaint cottages. Oak Forest is also charming, and slightly more affordable.

11. GREATER INWOOD The Greater Inwood area is nestled between Highways 290 and 249, north of the 610 Loop. Entry-level homes and new apartment complexes make the area attractive for first-time
homebuyers and renters. Aldine ISD serves students in this area.

12. GREENSPONT This industrial hub is home to 20 million square feet of office, retail and warehouse space, and offers easy access to IAH. Two school districts serve the area: Aldine ISD and Spring ISD.

13. GULFTON Gulfton is conveniently located about 10 miles southwest of Downtown, between the 610 Loop and Beltway 8, right along the Westpark Tollway. It’s a densely populated area, with several large apartment complexes, abutting the posh Bellaire.

14. MEMORIAL This upscale enclave includes five residential “villages,” all operating autonomously of Houston, west of Downtown along Memorial Drive and the Katy Freeway. The close-knit area and neighboring ‘hoods, the rest of which are part of Houston proper, feature historic ranch-style homes and massive new-build mansions alike, and the public schools in Spring Branch ISD are top-notch.

15. GREATER HEIGHTS In Houston’s historic Heights, updated turn-of-the-century homes stand next to newly constructed Victorian-style cottages with large, wrap-around porches; expect more high-rise condos in the coming years. The 19th Street business district boasts antique shops, art markets and funky cafes. Neighboring areas include Timbergrove, Shady Acres and Woodland Heights.

16. KASHMERE GARDENS/ NORTHEAST HOUSTON This tight-knit historically African-American community borders an industrial zone and a railroad corridor northeast of Downtown.

17. MEDICAL CENTER/NRG PARK With world-class hospitals, training and educational facilities, the Texas Medical Center treats more than 10 million patients annually and employs more than 106,000 professionals. Nearby NRG Stadium hosts myriad events throughout the year, including Houston Texans football games and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

18. MEMORIAL PARK/ WASHINGTON CORRIDOR Along Buffalo Bayou near the 610 Loop, just west of Downtown, find stately homes and tons of hike-and-bike trails. Memorial Park, one of the largest urban parks in the country, is popular for golf, running and cycling. Nearby, the newly gentrified Washington Corridor is now a strip of restaurants, lounges, wine bars and townhomes. This area offers easy access to 610, I-10 and a straight shot into Downtown via Memorial Drive or Allen Parkway.

19. MIDTOWN Sandwiched between Downtown and the Museum District, the trendy and walkable Midtown neighborhood is a popular choice for young professionals. It’s packed with high-rise apartments, boutique shopping, art galleries, restaurants and nightlife — and boasts three METRORail stations for easy access to Downtown, universities, and the Texas Medical Center.

20. MONTROSE Established in 1911, Montrose is one of the most eclectic areas in all of Houston. It’s home to music venues, vintage shopping and historic residential architecture. The neighborhood is bordered by Allen Parkway to the north, and the Museum District to the south. The Westheimer Curve is a world-famous foodie destination, full of mouthwatering eats.
Time to Explore! Clockwise from top left: Boutique shopping in Uptown; patio dining at Kau Ba in Montrose; enjoying street art in EaDo; biking in EaDo; and guacamole at Moxie’s in Uptown.

HOU fact! EaDo’s Graffiti Park is a collection of dozens of exterior walls painted with murals and street art. The works are updated and swapped out often, and the area most recently features a mural dedicated to those on the Covid frontlines.
Doing Downtown

Clockwise from top left: The quirky annual Art Car Parade; TUTS’ production of ‘Memphis;’ Discovery Green; the Downtown Aquarium; a cocktail at Rosalie.

Smither Park
The park near Third Ward features a vividly ornate amphitheater and is lined with quirky art installations, courtesy of local nonprofit The Orange Show.
from celeb chefs, hole-in-the-wall spots, and chic lounges and dive bars alike.

21. MUSEUM DISTRICT Houston’s Museum District welcomes nearly 9 million visitors to its 50-plus museums, galleries and cultural institutions each year. Standouts include the Museum of Fine Arts, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the newly renovated Holocaust Museum, and the Children’s Museum. For more information about Houston museums, turn to page 56.

22. NORTHSIDE/NORTHLINE/ACRES HOMES Several communities that are situated along I-45 North, just outside of the 610 Loop, enjoy a central location between Downtown and IAH airport.

23. NORTHSIDE VILLAGE The Northside Village area, also known as Near Northside, has historically been home to a primarily Hispanic population, and has recently seen growth due to expanded service of the METRORail’s red line, and thanks to the popular White Oak Music Hall concert venue.

24. PASADENA As the second largest city in Houston MSA, Pasadena boasts a booming economy thanks to its proximity to the Ship Channel and NASA’s Johnson Space Center. Pasadena ISD serves students here.

25. RIVER OAKS Situated along Buffalo Bayou west of Downtown, River Oaks is well known as one of Houston’s oldest and most affluent neighborhoods, with white-columned mansions dating from the 1920s and Houston’s oldest country club. The median home value in River Oaks is more than $2 million.

26. SHARPSTOWN Sharpstown is a master-planned community southwest of Downtown, one of the city’s most culturally diverse neighborhoods. Housing here includes post-World War II bungalows, as well as modern and traditional homes on large lots.

27. CENTRAL SOUTHWEST Central Southwest Houston is a predominantly African-American neighborhood that offers easy access to the Galleria and Texas Medical Center. Homes and apartments tend to be affordable, and dining options include a large number of authentic ethnic restaurants.

28. SPRING BRANCH Families flock to Spring Branch for its diverse cultural offerings, modest home prices and proximity to the Katy Freeway. A slew of new restaurants and beer gardens promise to breathe fresh life into the district. Spring Branch ISD serves students here.

29. SUNNYSIDE/SOUTHEAST HOUSTON Sunnyside is a historically black neighborhood located south of downtown Houston, outside the 610 Loop and inside Beltway 8, off State Highway 288. It’s known as a tight-knit community; nearby areas include South Acres, Crestmont Park and South Park.

30. THIRD WARD The Third Ward, home to Texas Southern University and the University of Houston, is rich in culture and history, as evidenced in the beautifully revamped Emancipation Park. Residents enjoy easy access to Hobby Airport and Downtown.

31. UPPER KIRBY Upper Kirby is a cross-section of River Oaks and Montrose, both in terms of location and culture — expect high-end shopping, indie coffee shops and impressive high-rise condos. Nearby Greenway Plaza is a business hub, with more than 4 million square feet of leasable space.

32. WEST UNIVERSITY The third-most expensive neighborhood in Houston, the tree-lined West U area is comprised of unique bungalows and newly remodeled homes. Upper-echelon families and young professionals love the proximity to Rice University and Rice Village.

33. TANGLEWOOD/BRIARGROVE PARK Tanglewood is a upscale community located just west of The Galleria. Its location near Memorial Park and Uptown allows for lots of options when it comes to recreational activities. Adjacent Briargrove Park is a more affordable ‘hood with similar amenities, and is popular among young families.
HARRIS COUNTY & BEYOND

While some residents may have you believe everything is better “inside the Loop,” the greater Houston area is home to dozens of award-winning and super-livable communities just a short drive from town. Explore all your options in the following pages.

NORTH

Aldine Located near George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), the community is in central Harris County on the northern edge of Houston. Aldine ISD serves students in this area.

Champions The Champions-FM 1960 area has a number of master-planned neighborhoods, many tucked away among tall pine trees and lakes. Easy access to Downtown plus an abundance of golf courses and country clubs make this area a popular choice. Spring ISD serves students here.

Conroe About 45 minutes north of Downtown, Conroe was named after a Southern Cavalry officer who founded a sawmill there in 1881. Today, towering pine trees and lakeside living make the city an attractive option for outdoors and golf enthusiasts, who may reside in traditional one-story homes or luxurious lakefront condos. Conroe ISD serves area students.

Crosby/Huffman With 150 miles of pine forests and open grassland, Crosby and Huffman outline the east side of Lake Houston, about 35 minutes from Downtown. Crosby ISD serves Crosby students and Huffman students attend Huffman ISD schools.
**Cypress** More than 120,000 residents call this suburb — one of the most affluent in Harris County — home. Expect tons of golf courses and superior schools, and additional hike-and-bike trails and horseback riding upon completion of the Cypress Creek Greenway Project. Large master-planned communities provide ample amenities, such as Bridgeland’s vast lake and trail system. Students are served by Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.

**Humble** Located in northeast Harris County near Lake Houston, Humble covers approximately 10 square miles and offers large, wooded lots for new builds. Petroleum has been the basis of Humble’s economy since its beginning. The city was the namesake for Humble Oil and Refining Company, which later merged with the Exxon. Humble ISD, one of the fastest-growing school districts in Texas, serves students here.

**Jersey Village** Jersey Village is a town of approximately 8,000 residents located about 20 miles northwest of Downtown, near the Hwy. 290 and Beltway 8 interchange. Residents of this tight-knit community enjoy access to a golf course, pool and a park with playground. Fish from the shores of a small lake in the middle of the neighborhood! Cypress-Fairbanks ISD serves area students.

**Kingwood** Kingwood, sometimes called the “livable forest,” is best known for 75 miles of greenbelt trails where residents can hike and bike through the woods, along the lake and into a nature reserve. The city is divided into 25 “villages.” Each has its own style, price point, private pools, and other amenities; the Clubs of Kingwood, for example, offers six championship golf courses. Students attend Humble ISD schools.

**Klein** Situated between Tomball and The Woodlands, northwest of Downtown, Klein offers a distinctly suburban feel with easy access via I-45 to entertainment, shopping, dining and more. (The area is named after a German immigrant whose great-great-grandson is Lyle Lovett!) Klein ISD serves area students.

**Lake Houston** The forested Greater Lake Houston area is currently experiencing robust population and economic growth, thanks to new Fortune 500 campuses and the massive Generation Park development. Several subdivisions offer peaceful shorefront properties with resort-style amenities. Humble ISD serves students here.

**Magnolia** By the 1920s, this quaint town had become a shipping center for lumber, farm products and cattle. Today, the original railroad depot sits in the heart of Magnolia, home to around 140,000. Find rural estates and cute cottages alike, plus a burgeoning art and coffee shop scene. Magnolia ISD, the second-fastest growing district in the state, serves area students.

**Spring** Between IAH and The Woodlands is Spring, a town of 55,000 that is home to several gated communities, the beautiful Mercer Botanic Gardens, and the charming Old Town Spring, complete with Victorian-style mansions that are now restaurants and shops. Spring ISD serves area students.

**Tomball** Less than 30 miles from Downtown on Hwy. 249, Tomball has maintained its small-town charm while offering access to big-city amenities, plus award-winning golf courses, two breweries and a handful of great live-music venues. Tomball ISD serves students here.
The Woodlands Nestled in 28,000 acres of native forest, The Woodlands is one of the most successful master-planned communities in the United States. Find 10 residential “villages,” along with high-end hotels and conferences centers, shopping at Market Street, and impressive business parks. Dining, nightlife and recreational activities abound along The Woodlands Waterway, including at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Conroe ISD serves the area.

SOUTH

Alvin The hometown of baseball legend Nolan Ryan, Alvin boasts a distinct small-town vibe about 40 minutes from the coast. Several public parks offer beautiful swaths of Brazoria Country countryside for hiking, biking, disc golf and more. Alvin ISD serves students here.

Sugar Land One of the most populous areas within the fast-growing Fort Bend County is Sugar Land, whose proximity to the 23,000-acre George Ranch (along with the George Observatory) and to Downtown Houston alike is part of its strong appeal. Master-planned communities within the area offer resort-style amenities and expansive trail systems, while the Sugar Land Town Square is a vibrant mixed-use development with 1.4 million square feet of shopping and dining. The Asian community has a strong presence here, as reflected in its delicious Indian food offerings. Fort Bend ISD serves students here.

Missouri City Located between Downtown and Sugar Land, Missouri City is a convenient option for those frequenting The Galleria and the Texas Medical Center. There’s a range of housing available, including within the Sienna Plantation community, where modest one-story abodes coexist with million-dollar-plus mansions. Fort Bend ISD and Houston ISD serve students in Missouri City.

Pearland Dotted with beautiful master-planned and gated communities, Pearland was recently named one of the fastest-growing cities in the region, and the fifth-safest city in Texas. A 20-minute drive to Downtown allows residents to enjoy short commutes and everything the big city has to offer while taking advantage of the area’s relatively low cost of living, and a burgeoning restaurant scene. Pearland ISD and Alvin ISD serve students.

Richmond Richmond is located about 15 miles southwest of Downtown, on the Brazos River. The population her is expected to nearly double within 25 years, so the city has launched the Richmond Trail Master Plan to provide trails for recreation and commuting. Students here attend Lamar Consolidated ISD.

Rosenberg Rosenberg, about 35 miles southwest of Downtown, was founded in the late 1800s, when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe railroads chose the area as a railway stop. Today, its quaint historic downtown district is burgeoning with cultural institutions, including two theaters and several art-exhibition spaces. Lamar Consolidated ISD serves students in this area.

EAST

Baytown Baytown sits on the northern shore of Galveston Bay between the San Jacinto and Trinity rivers. Family-friendly water activities and wildlife preserves — Baytown Nature Center, Eddy Gray Wetlands Education & Recreation Center — keep residents entertained and active. The city is home to refineries and warehouse/distribution centers for companies like ExxonMobil and Home Depot. Goose Creek ISD serves Baytown students.

Clear Lake Known primarily as the home of NASA’s Johnson Space Center, the Clear Lake area has grown to include much more: Nine residential communities provide diverse living options and easy travel to both Houston and Galveston. Residents enjoy an abundance of activities including shopping, dining and boating on Clear Lake, a 2,000-acre inlet of Galveston Bay. Spaces like Exploration Green allow residents to enjoy the native wetlands. Students attend Clear Creek ISD.

Deer Park Often called the Birthplace of Texas, Deer Park is where initial treaty documents securing Texas’ independence from Mexico were drawn following the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836. Today, Deer Park — now home to the San Jacinto monument and museum — is frequently listed on national lists of most affordable suburbs, thanks in part to its easy access to Houston, the Bay Area and Galveston Island. Students attend Deer Park ISD.

Friendswood Friendswood is an affluent suburb dotted with large, red-brick homes, situated right between central Houston and Galveston; it’s less than half an hour from both Hobby Airport and the coast. It prides itself on having a low crime rate and a tight-knit, family-oriented community. Depending on location, students are served by Friendswood ISD or Clear Creek ISD.

Galveston Galveston is a beach town just 50 miles southeast of Houston on the Gulf of Mexico. The island is the most-visited beach destination in Texas, with 32 miles of shoreline and a bustling cruise port. In addition to beautiful Victorian architecture and funky shops and restaurants in the historic Strand district, Galveston offers

In 1990, Frank Sinatra headlined a weekend of concerts to open Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. Over the years, it has grown to seat 16,500 concertgoers, and in 2016, overtook the Hollywood Bowl as the world’s No. 1 amphitheater in ticket sales.
Beyond the Loop
Clockwise from top left: A dog owners event in Katy, Victorian-style homes in Galveston, a concert at Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land.
Northern Exposure

The Woodlands Waterway is a centerpiece of this master-planned suburb north of Houston.
attractions like Moody Gardens and Schlitterbahn Waterpark, plus the University of Texas Medical Branch. Students on Galveston Island and the neighboring Bolivar Peninsula attend Galveston ISD.

**Kemah** Kemah is located on Galveston Bay, just 25 minutes south of Houston and 25 minutes north of Galveston. Commercial fishing has remained a large part of Kemah’s identity over the years, making it a long-standing destination for recreation and tourism. The Kemah Boardwalk offers an array of waterfront restaurants, attractions and events throughout the year. Kemah is served by Clear Creek ISD.

**La Marque** La Marque, sometimes dubbed the Gateway to the Gulf, is an incorporated residential community about 12 miles northwest of Galveston. Marinas, yacht clubs and beautiful swaths of coastline make this a prime choice for those who want the appeal of island life on the mainland. Texas City ISD serves most of this area.

**La Porte** La Porte means “the door” or “gateway,” in reference to what is now the Houston Ship Channel. Located just south of Baytown, the city boasts a small-town atmosphere and a big-time economy focused on oil and shipping. Sylvan Beach Park offers 2,000 feet of sandy beaches, as well as a fishing pier and a boat launch. City parks include a wave pool and a park alongside Galveston Bay. La Porte ISD serves students in the area.

**League City** Approximately 23 miles equidistant between Houston and Galveston, League City has experienced tremendous growth through the years, and recently surpassed Galveston as Galveston County’s largest city. It touts the third-largest pleasure boat anchorage in the country, with four marinas that host more than 7,000 boats, and also has more than 620 acres of public parks, three golf courses and the Jonny Arollo Civic Center. Depending on location, students are served by Clear Creek ISD or Dickinson ISD.

**Nassau Bay** Nassau Bay is a small suburban community whose identity is deeply rooted in the space program. Nassau Bay sits directly across from the Johnson Space Center and is surrounded on three sides by water. With two marinas, three hotels and several popular retail and entertainment establishments, the city receives nearly 3,000 visitors every day. Students attend schools within Clear Creek ISD.

**Webster** Despite its small size, Webster, located between NASA and League City, is mighty in terms of commercial vibrancy: The city is home to more than 2,200 businesses, and the aerospace and medical fields are two of the city’s major growth industries. Clear Creek ISD serves students in Webster.

**Katy** Located along I-10 at the intersection of Harris, Fort Bend and Waller counties, Katy offers the appeal of small-town suburbia balanced with close distance to Houston-area businesses and recreation. Increasingly diverse, Katy offers standout cuisine from all over the world; Katy Asian Town is a burgeoning cultural epicenter. Housing options range from apartments and condos to complete living communities with waterfront and golf-course properties, like Cinco Ranch. Katy ISD serves area students, and is nationally recognized for its educational programs.

**Westchase** The Westchase District is situated along the main thoroughfare of Westheimer Road, offering convenient access to the Energy Corridor and the Memorial and Galleria areas. Two country clubs offer world-class golf, and well-maintained hike-and-bike trails lead to Storey Park and the hidden-gem Terry Hershey Park. Houston ISD and Alief ISD serve the Westchase District.
STEPS TO HOME OWNERSHIP

Whether you’re looking to buy or rent in the city or the suburbs, chances are that Houston has just the place for you. Here, find the resources you need to get settled in your new home.

One of the keys to making the home-buying process easier—and easier to understand—is proper planning. In doing so, you’ll be able to anticipate requests from lenders, lawyers and a host of other professionals. Furthermore, planning will help you discover valuable shortcuts in the home-buying process.

1. Do You Know What You Want?
Ponder the pros and cons of different housing options in terms of location and lifestyle, and then decide on a purchasing timeframe.

2. Do You Have the Money?
Homes and financing are closely intertwined. Loan programs have evolved, and some require a five percent down payment or less. In addition to a down payment, purchasers also need cash for closing costs.

3. Select a Realtor
Buying and selling real estate is a complex matter. In this maze of forms, financing, inspections, marketing, pricing and negotiating, it makes sense to work with professionals who know the community. You can find a realtor at open houses, through local advertising, websites, referrals and recommendations.

4. Get Loan Preapproval
Realtors routinely suggest that consumers start the mortgage process well before bidding on a home. Purchase forms often require buyers to apply for financing within a given time period; in many cases, seven to 10 days.

5. Choose a Home
Consider such things as pricing, location, size, amenities and design. Decide what features are most important and adjust your search accordingly. The best approach is to look at as
many homes as possible. Narrow down your choices, then collaborate with your realtor to go over specifics and options.

6. Get Funding
The amount you put down makes a difference in how your loan works: Putting less than 20 percent down will cause lenders to ask for a guaranteed mortgage from an outside third party. Your credit score will be a determining factor on your future interest rate. First-time home buyers can be assisted through state-backed first-timer programs, which often feature smaller down payments and below-market interest rates.

7. Make an Offer
In a typical situation, you will complete an offer that the realtor will present to the owner and the owner’s representative. The owner, in turn, may accept the offer, reject it, or make a counter-offer.

8. Complete the Inspection
Inspections are common in residential realty transactions, including checks for termites, surveys to determine boundaries, appraisals to determine value for lenders, title reviews and structural inspections. It’s recommended that the buyer be present. At this time, insurance should also be acquired.

9. Closing and Settlement
The closing process, also known as “settlement” or “escrow,” is increasingly computerized and automated. In many cases, buyers and sellers don’t need to attend a specific event; signed paperwork can be sent to the closing agent via overnight delivery. Once transactions are completed, the buyer receives the keys and the seller receives payment for the home. Deeds, loan papers, and other documents are prepared, signed, and filed with local property record offices.

Renting in Houston

For those looking to rent or lease, Houston offers a variety of choices — from apartments, townhomes and lofts, to mid-rises, high-rises, condos, garage apartments and single-family homes. In areas like the Galleria and Upper Kirby, Houston has a plethora of luxury high-rise rental properties featuring fab amenities and stunning views. Meanwhile, a slew of new apartment buildings in the Heights has cemented the area’s place as one of Houston’s most walkable neighborhoods, and charming garage apartments in Montrose are a fun way to maximize a budget in an uber-hip part of town. Next up, the Med Center is the largest of its kind in the world, and offers a variety of rental options — plus special rates and shuttle services for TMC employees.

And for those looking for urban living with a bit of old-school flair, Downtown’s creative restoration has transformed several old city landmarks into loft buildings. Downtown and Midtown are home to a bulk of the 23,000-plus new units expected to come online in the next year or two — good news for those who want high entertainment and a short commute.

Wanting to venture outside the Loop? CityCentre, located at the Katy Freeway and Beltway 8 interchange, is a massive mixed-use development with apartment homes, lofts and townhomes for rent — all set among high-end office buildings, fitness facilities, and shopping and dining destinations. The Woodlands offers a similar vibe, plus an attractive waterway and LEED-certified properties.
OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL & NATURAL GAS SERVICES In Texas, residential consumers can shop around for the electrical service provider of their choice. The largest providers are Reliant Energy and TXU Energy.

The Texas Public Utility Commission provides information about choosing an electric provider, rate comparisons and much more at powertochoose.org, and the City of Houston offers an informative website that can help with shopping for electrical service providers in the region at houstonconsumerchoice.com. Be sure to ask about average billing plans, online payment options and the hours of customer service. Also inquire if a contract is required and for how long, what happens if your power goes out, and whether there are fees for switching to another electric company or canceling your service.

In Houston, CenterPoint Energy supplies natural gas. For more information and to set up service, call 713-659-2111 or visit its website at centerpointenergy.com.

WATER & SEWAGE SERVICES The City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department provides water and sewer service for residents of Houston proper. Other incorporated municipalities in the Houston area provide their own water and sewer services to their residents. Contact your local governing body for full information.

CABLE SERVICES The two primary cable service providers in Houston are Comcast Xfinity and AT&T U-verse, which both offer cable, Internet and phone service options. Satellite dish services are available in Houston through Dish Network and DIRECTV.

TELEPHONE SERVICES There are more than three dozen local telephone service providers, as well as most major brands of cell phone service providers. The City of Houston and the immediate surrounding area have four area codes: 281, 713, 346 and 832. When calling from one of these area codes, 10-digit dialing is required for local calls. Three other area codes — 409, 936 and 979 — are part of the larger 10-county Houston metropolitan area.

TEXAS DRIVER’S LICENSE New residents must obtain a Texas driver’s license within 30 days of establishing Texas residency. New residents with a valid out-of-state driver’s license who own a vehicle and would like to obtain a Texas driver’s license will need to provide proof of Texas registration, proof of liability insurance, a Social Security number, and an out-of-state license. The only examination required is a vision test. If the out-of-state license has expired, a new resident must take a written examination, a behind-the-wheel examination, and a vision test. Those who do not own a vehicle do not have to show proof of insurance but are required to complete an affidavit of non-ownership. At the time of application, new residents are required to surrender their valid or expired out-of-state driver’s license.

All original applicants for a driver’s license or identification certificate must present proof of identity.
satisfactory to the Texas Department of Public Safety, as well as take the written, driving and vision tests. For information about documents that may be presented as acceptable proof of identity, go to the Texas Department of Public Safety’s website at txdps.state.tx.us. First-time foreign applicants must prove legal U.S. residency before obtaining a Texas driver’s license.

A beginning driver of age 15 or older can apply for an instruction permit, which enables the holder of the permit to drive with a licensed driver who is 18 years of age or older in the front seat. To obtain an instruction permit, a beginning driver must pass the written portion of the driving test, and those under the age of 18 must also take the classroom portion of an approved driver’s education course.

For more information and locations of Texas driver’s license offices, visit the Texas Department of Public Safety website at dps.texas.gov.

**AUTO REGISTRATION & TAGS** Newcomers must register vehicles in Texas within 30 days of establishing residency. In Harris County, registration is done with the Harris County tax assessor-collector. Call 713-368-2000 for full information, office locations, and associated fees. Residents of other counties must register at their county tax office. The following information is necessary to register a vehicle: an out-of-state title or registration; an out-of-state title or registration; a sales or use tax affidavit; a current Texas driver’s license; a Vehicle Identification Certificate (Form VI-30-A), indicating the vehicle has passed a safety inspection; a current odometer reading; customs documentation if from a foreign country; and proof of insurance. Members of the U.S. armed forces and nonresident students attending accredited Texas schools on a full-time basis are not considered state residents.

Registration and license tags must be renewed every 12 months by mail, in person or online. In addition, all Texas vehicles must pass a safety inspection every 12 months at a state-regulated inspection station. A vehicle that passes inspection must display a current state inspection sticker in the lower left-hand corner of the front windshield.

Texas has a mandatory driver’s liability insurance law. All drivers are required to carry proof of liability insurance in their vehicles at all times.

The minimum drinking age in Texas is 21. Drivers are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages while operating a vehicle. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) laws are strictly enforced and can carry a sentence of jail time, even for first-time offenders. Texas also has a driving under the influence (DUI) law that penalizes those who are under 21 and have any detectable amount of alcohol in their system when driving a motor vehicle.

**PET REQUIREMENTS** In Texas, all cats and dogs must be vaccinated against rabies by the time they are four months old and must receive a booster one year after the initial vaccination. After the first two vaccinations, cats and dogs can be vaccinated at either one-year or three-year intervals. Additionally, cats and dogs in Houston must be licensed. Any veterinarian can vaccinate your pet and provide license tags.

The City of Houston Bureau of Animal Regulation and Control (BARC) may impound any dog or cat not restrained on a leash or without proper tags. For more information, contact BARC at houstontx.gov/barc.

In Harris County outside the Houston city limits, contact the Harris County Veterinary Public Health Division at 281-999-3191 or countypets.com.
Bosscat Kitchen
Red velvet churros with cookie-butter cream

LIVE. WORK. PLAY.
NOW THAT you’re here, it’s time to discover the things that make Houston so special. From one of the nation’s most deliciously diverse restaurant scenes to ample green spaces and world-class performing arts experiences, there is no shortage of things to do, places to go or events to experience.

THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

Cultures from all over the world come together in Houston, and the city celebrates this diversity with exciting annual festivals — and one dazzling rodeo. Every March, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo arrives at NRG Stadium. The largest livestock show and the richest regular-season Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo in the world, the event attracts millions of visitors who come to view the animal exhibits, watch the cowboy competitions, and see their favorite music stars performing onstage. HLSR also distributes millions in scholarships to area students each year.
**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

- Hugo Ortega, one of Houston’s four James Beard Award-winning chefs, uses ants, worms and grasshoppers in dishes at his Xochi.

- Houstonians dine out more than residents of any other major city — 6.9 times per week, compared to the national average of 4.9.

- The Original Ninfa’s on Navigation — popular purveyors of mouthwatering, meaty modern Tex-Mex — is said to have invented fajitas.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.5 mil</strong></td>
<td>Number of RodeoHouston visitors in 2019</td>
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<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td>Number of blocks that the Theater District spans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>451</strong></td>
<td>Number of playgrounds in H-Town (with 23 splash pads!)</td>
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<td><strong>250,000</strong></td>
<td>Number of Mexican freetailed bats that live under the Waugh Bridge in Buffalo Bayou Park</td>
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<td><strong>70,000</strong></td>
<td>Number of works of art in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>8.7 mil</strong></td>
<td>Number of visitors to the Museum District’s 19 cultural institutions welcome annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**GET OUTSIDE! ALL ABOUT HOUSTON PARKS**

- Memorial Park — an urban oasis twice the size of Central Park — just opened its Eastern Glades, reclaiming more than 100 acres of previously inaccessible park space. Find picnic areas, wetlands and wildlife.

- Houston has a rate of two times the nationwide average of parkland — nearly 24 acres per 1,000 residents!

- A five-mile “Green Loop” — a system of parks, trails and pedestrian-friendly public spaces — has been proposed to encircle Downtown, also connecting Midtown and EaDo.
ith a population as ethnically diverse as Houston’s — more than 145 languages are spoken, and 90 nations have consular representation in the city — it stands to reason that an eclectic restaurant scene would emerge. And that’s exactly what has happened. In fact, Houston has become a food lover’s paradise. Name any country and most likely there is a restaurant in the Houston area that serves delectable dishes from “back home.”

Chris Shepherd — perhaps Houston’s most famous chef — is celebrated for creating restaurants like his now-retired flagship Underbelly that tell Houston’s story through food. For the James Beard Award winner, that means immersing in the lesser known traditions of H-Town’s Asian communities, Indian enclaves, Latin neighborhoods, Creole kitchens and more. Find his uniquely delicious dishes at his restaurants — Georgia James, One Fifth and UB Preserv — and at beloved grocery chain H-E-B, where take-and-bake options from Shepherd and other local chefs abound.

Also noteworthy: During the COVID crisis, as cooks across the nation are finding themselves significantly less busy, Shepherd is working harder than ever. His nonprofit, Southern Smoke, supports hospitality professionals in times of need through emergency grants, and has distributed more than $5 million since its inception in 2015.

Every neighborhood in Houston has options worth exploring. Foodies know that the Westheimer Curve in Montrose has risen to national notoriety for its superstar chefs, cool coffeeshops, bustling bakeries and trendy-bar-next-door
But other districts are vying for gastronomic greatness: In Downtown, hotel restaurants are surprisingly chic, like James Beard-winning Hugo Ortega’s Xochi inside the Marriott Marquis, the new C. Baldwin hotel’s Rosalie, and Hotel Alessandra’s Art Deco-style Lucienne.

In EaDo, a trio of exciting spots from the nationally lauded crew Agricole Hospitality — Miss Carousel cocktail bar, next-door pizza place Vinny’s, and Gulf-Coast-cool Indianola — draws a crowd nightly, and Nancy’s Hustle has quietly become one of the most talked-about restaurants in Texas.

River Oaks and the Galleria boast a handful of high-end steakhouse experiences, like Doris Metropolitan, Steak 48 and Mastro’s. Inside the mall, find stylish sushi and more at Nobu, and, across the way, amazing Indian food at the palatial and beautifully designed Musaafer.

The Heights is the latest ‘hood to emerge as a foodie destination, with outposts of many Houston go-tos — Common Bond bakery, Local Foods sandwich shop, The Burger Joint, farm-to-table fave Dish Society — opening here in the last few years. It’s more pedestrian-friendly than other areas, which makes for an easy and fun progressive dining experience.

While reliable online restaurant guides from OpenTable, Zagat and Yelp are available to help newcomers get their culinary bearings, many visitors like asking for local recs. Suggestions for fine-dining may include Tony’s, B&B Butchers, Uchi and Pappas Bros. Steakhouse, hole-in-the-wall haunts and casual hot spot as might be Gatlin’s Barbecue, El Tiempo, Breakfast Klub and Mala Sichuan.

For those looking to get a little closer to their food, local farmers’ markets spring up around Houston on the weekends, where vendors proudly display their homegrown fare and homemade product. The Urban Harvest Farmers Market is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays year-round, and boasts more than 50 farmers and vendors selling everything from freshly harvested produce and artisan breads to grass-fed beef and emu eggs.
Houston is a shopping mecca. From lavish malls to mixed-use developments, Houston's shopping scene is as vibrant and diverse as the city itself.

The Galleria mall is home to many of the world's most coveted boutiques, including Cartier, Swarovski, Tiffany & Co., Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Versace and more. Anchor department stores include Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus and Macy's, and affordable options are also abundant — find Zara, Urban Outfitters, H&M and more. The neighborhoods surrounding the Galleria feature shopping centers like Highland Village, Uptown Park and River Oaks District, all offering a similar mix of high-end retailers.

For H-Town shopping aficionados, Rice Village, situated near Rice University and the Museum District, is a go-to. There's an ever-evolving roster of funky boutiques, salons, spas and restaurants; celeb designer Chloe Dao, who won the second season of Bravo's Project Runway, has her namesake boutique here, where she's lately been selling out of her stylish masks.

Bargain-hunting on Harwin Drive is a fun excursion, as is antique and vintage shopping along Bissonnet, in the Heights, or up and down the Westheimer Curve. For those antiquing on a budget, the Thompson Antique Center of Texas on Hempstead Road is home to 190 dealer spaces within 108,000 square feet. Here, vintage boots, hats, clothing, and costume jewelry are well priced. (Less than a two-hour drive out of the city, the little towns of Chappell Hill and Round Top host annual antique and flea markets that attract the most discriminating collectors.)
Houston is a major-league sports town where fans can cheer for a variety of teams year-round. Get into the action with the 2017 World Series Champion Houston Astros at Minute Maid Park, or score a touchdown with the Texans at NRG Stadium, the world’s first retractable-roof NFL stadium. Grab courtside seats to see the two-time world-champion Houston Rockets at Toyota Center. Meanwhile, BBVA Compass Stadium, home of the Dynamo and the Dash, hosts numerous soccer matches throughout the year. Other annual professional sporting events include the Shell Houston Open and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo — the world’s largest.

But Houston sports don’t stop at pro. The region’s collegiate teams — Rice University, University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Houston Baptist University and Prairie View A&M — round out the options, competing in most major sports. Rice’s baseball team is fun to watch, while UH’s football program is scoring big these days.

**Houston Teams**

**MLB: HOUSTON ASTROS**  
Minute Maid Park  
houston.astros.mlb.com

**NBA: HOUSTON ROCKETS**  
Toyota Center  
nba.com/rockets

**NFL: HOUSTON TEXANS**  
NRG Stadium  
houston.texans.com

**MLS: HOUSTON DYNAMO**  
BBVA Compass Stadium  
houstondynamo.com

**NWSL: HOUSTON DASH**  
BBVA Compass Stadium  
houstondynamo.com/houstondash

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COUGARS**  
American Athletic Conference

**RICE UNIVERSITY OWLS**  
Conference USA

**HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY HUSKIES**  
Southland Conference

**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY TIGERS**  
Southwestern Athletic Conference

**PRAIRIE VIEW A&M PANTHERS**  
Southwestern Athletic Conference
Whether you’d like to relax beside a tranquil lake, jog amid an urban forest of tall pines, kayak down a freshwater bayou with glistening skyscrapers as a backdrop, or take the family for a picnic and listen to live music, you can do it all in Houston — practically year-round.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (houstontx.gov/parks) oversees 366 parks and more than 200 green spaces, along more than 125 miles of hike-and-bike trails. The Harris County Park System website (harriscounty.tx.gov/parks) provides detailed information and maps of parks as varied as the Armand Bayou Nature Center, Bear Creek Pioneers Park, George Bush Park and Terry Hershey Park.

According to the Trust for Public Land, Houston was ranked first in the nation for total green space among cities of comparable density and fourth in the nation for total land devoted to parks. The watersheds that drain Harris County contain more than 800 miles of natural streams and 3,000 miles of human-made waterways.

City parks feature more than 500 basketball hoops and 450-plus playgrounds, several of which have splashpads — perfect for hot summer days. If tennis is your game, you’ll find three major tennis centers and more than 200 neighborhood courts. And the region is a golf-lover’s paradise, with more than 60 public and semi-private courses available, and dozens of private ones, too.

Two of the most popular jogging trails make their way...
around the outer perimeters of Memorial Park — this path was recently resurfaced and rerouted — and Rice University. Near Memorial Park, the 155-acre Houston Arboretum, also undergoing renovations and expansions, is a great place for the whole family to explore nature. And Rice is located across the street from Hermann Park, which boasts the Houston Zoo, Lake McGovern, Miller Outdoor Theatre, the beautiful Centennial Gardens, the Houston Garden Center, an 18-hole golf course and more.

And in the heart of Downtown, Discovery Green, located right by the George R. Brown Convention Center, Minute Maid Park, and Toyota Center, was built in 2008 using the latest technology in “green” construction, energy conservation and sustainable park operations. Prominent features of the LEED-certified park include a children’s playground, interactive water features, an amphitheater stage and slope, a small lake and rotating public art installations.

Get Fit!

**Fitness centers abound.** from exclusive private clubs like the Houstonian, the Houston City Club, and the Houston Racquet Club and nationally franchised centers like Lifetime Fitness to boutique fitness facilities. While the pandemic has certainly changed the way many businesses operate, lots of local studios are continuing to offer fun and diverse workouts. Here are a few faves.

**Big Power Yoga** In H-Town, most yoga classes end up being pretty sweaty. But Big is one of the city’s original hot-yoga studios, and it’s currently offering livestream classes to promote social distancing. bigpoweryoga.com

**Boost Pilates** With three locations in town — Heights, West U and River Oaks — Boost is a perfect pilates reformer studio for beginners and experts alike. boostpilates.com

**Define Body & Mind** This Houston-born chain has expanded to Ohio, Florida, South Dakota — and Dubai! Find a variety of low-impact, high-intensity workouts, along with mindfulness exercises and nutritional needs. definebody.com

**Empower Fitness Lab** With locations in Tanglewood and the Heights, this treadmill- and rowing-fueled studio offers HIIT, HIIT Boxing and HIIT Yoga. empowerfitnesslab.com

**LagreeHTX** Lagree, the pilates-inspired workout that garnered a cult following in Hollywood, has made its way to H-Town. LagreeHTX in Upper Kirby is a see-and-be scene for socialites and pro athletes — not to mention a killer workout. lagreehouston.com

**RYDE** This locally grown cycling brand’s 45-minute, rhythm-based classes are a top-notch experience. With studios in River Oaks and Downtown, RYDE plans to expand soon to the Heights. letstryde.com

**SWEAT 1000** A Heights facility combines treadmill exercises — on an incline, of course — floor work, weights and boxing for a chance to burn 1,000 calories during a 60-minute class. sweat1000.com
ON WITH THE SHOW

Houston is one of a few cities in the United States that can boast major symphony, ballet, opera and theater companies of worldwide acclaim. With seven member organizations, the Theater District is the vibrant heart of the city’s tremendous cultural assets. Although most organizations have opted to cancel performances through Spring 2021 due to the pandemic, Houstonians are certain the curtain will rise again, and are eager to support the scene when it is safe.

Alley Theatre  Houston’s rich theatrical tradition began in 1947 with the opening of this theater in, literally, an alley. Today, the Alley is one of only a few professional theaters in the country to employ its own resident company of actors. Shows are year-round in the two-theater complex.

Da Camera of Houston  Founded in 1987, Da Camera brings together leading American and international musicians. It is nationally acclaimed for its provocative chamber music, contemporary music and an annual jazz series that showcases renowned performers and emerging artists.

Houston Ballet  Cited by The New York Times as “one of the nation’s best ballet companies,” the Houston Ballet is the fourth-largest company in America. In a typical season, the ensemble of more than 50 dancers performs around the world and treats Houston’s ballet aficionados to more than 100 performances in the Wortham Center.

Houston Grand Opera  One of the nation’s largest opera companies, HGO is internationally recognized for its innovative repertoire that blends the classics with contemporary works and world premieres. HGO is the only opera company to win two Grammy awards, a Tony and two Emmys.

Houston Symphony  An integral part of the local arts scene since 1913, the Houston Symphony usually performs more than 170 concerts a year at Jones Hall, Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands.

Society for the Performing Arts  The largest nonprofit of its kind in the Southwest, SPA typically hosts dozens of internationally acclaimed artists from the entire performing-arts spectrum — large orchestras, small avant-garde dance troupes, inspirational speakers and authors — at Jones Hall.

Theatre Under The Stars  TUTS, one of the country’s largest nonprofit producers of musical theater, has cast more than 300 musicals over 45 years. TUTS stages Broadway classics, world premieres and new works at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts downtown—also home to Broadway in Houston, featuring touring hits.
## Live Performance Venues

| A. D. Players Theater, Uptown | HITS Theatre Youth theater, Heights |
| Alley Theatre Theater, Downtown | Hobby Center for the Performing Arts Theater and concert hall, Downtown |
| Arena Theatre Concert hall, Southwest Houston | House of Blues Concert venue, Downtown |
| Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion Outdoor amphitheater, The Woodlands | Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts Theater and concert hall, Downtown |
| Ensemble Theatre Theater, Midtown | Main Street Theater Theater, Rice Village |
| Grand 1894 Opera House Theater and concert hall, Galveston | MATCH Multi-venue theater, Midtown |
| Miller Outdoor Theatre Outdoor amphitheater, Museum District |
| Queensbury Theatre Theater, West Houston |
| Revention Center Concert venue, Downtown |
| Stages Repertory Theatre Theater, Montrose |
| White Oak Music Hall Indoor-outdoor concert venue, Heights |
| Wortham Center Theater and concert hall, Downtown |
Museum Marvels
Clockwise from above: The HMNS paleontology hall; the grounds of the Menil Collection; Goya’s ‘Manuel Lapena,’ on display at MFAH.
MUST-SEE MUSEUMS

Houston’s renowned Museum District lies just south of Downtown, near Hermann Park, the Texas Medical Center and Rice University. A dynamic testament to the city’s commitment to the visual arts, the district offers something for everyone, with special touring exhibits throughout the year. Eighteen museums are located within the district, and several others are spread out across the city.

Children’s Museum of Houston
This highly interactive and heavily trafficked attraction had to rethink a lot of its processes post-pandemic, but a safer experience awaits. Kids will love the educational science and art exhibits, and “kidtropolis” is a child-run city where visitors choose what they want to be and learn how to make the town function.

Contemporary Arts Museum
The Contemporary Arts Museum is a museum for visual arts focusing on international, national and regional art of the last 40 years. It remains closed due to Covid, but upon reopening, expect an only-in-Houston exhibit celebrating hip-hop pioneer DJ Screw and his connection to the visual arts world.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), which opened in 1924 as the first art museum in Texas, has a collection of more than 56,000 works. Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, the restored mansion of Houston philanthropist Ima Hogg, houses decorative arts and contains one of the finest collections of American furniture, paintings, glass, and textiles from 1620 to 1870. Another home, Rienzi, donated to MFAH by Houston philanthropists Harris Masterson III and his wife, Carroll Sterling Masterson, holds the Southwest’s most important collection of European decorative art.

Holocaust Museum Houston
This newly renovated space tells the stories of Houston-area survivors of the Holocaust through moving installations of films, photographs and artifacts.

Houston Museum of Natural Science
HMNS features more than a dozen permanent exhibit areas showcasing space science, Native Americans, paleontology, energy, chemistry, gems and minerals, seashells, Texas and African wildlife, and ancient Egyptian culture. Included within the museum are the Wortham IMAX theatre, the Cockrell Butterfly Center and the Burke Baker Planetarium. The museum’s satellite facility, the George Observatory, is located in Brazos Bend State Park, southwest of the city. It houses the largest telescope available for public viewing in the Houston area.

Menil Collection
This gem, just outside the Museum District in Montrose, displays an immensely significant private collection of nearly 16,000 works dating from the Paleolithic period to present day. Other Menil venues include Cy Twombly Gallery and The Rothko Chapel. Locals love lounging and picnicking on the verdant lawn, especially during these days of social distancing.

San Jacinto Museum of History
This exhibit within the San Jacinto Monument at San Jacinto Battleground state historic site features a wealth of artifacts and documents covering more than 400 years of early Texas history.

Space Center Houston
South of Houston in Clear Lake is the Disney-designed Space Center Houston, the visitors’ center for NASA’s Johnson Space Center. It features Texas’ largest IMAX theatre, live demonstrations, space capsules, space suits, and the world’s largest collection of moon rocks.
## Area Museums, Galleries, and Cultural Centers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Museum Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1940 Air Terminal Museum</td>
<td>8325 Travelair St., at Hobby Airport</td>
<td>1940airterminal.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>American Cowboy Museum</td>
<td>11822 Almeda Rd., Southwest Houston</td>
<td>theamericancowboy博物馆.org</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Art Car Museum</td>
<td>140 Heights Blvd., Heights</td>
<td>artcarmuseum.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Asia Society Texas Center</td>
<td>1370 Southmore Blvd., Museum District</td>
<td>asiasociety.org/texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Battleship Texas State Historic Site*</td>
<td>3523 Independence Pkwy., in La Porte</td>
<td>*closed for renovations</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bayou Bend Collection &amp; Gardens</td>
<td>6003 Memorial Dr., Rice Military</td>
<td>mfah.org/bayoubend</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bishop’s Palace</td>
<td>1402 Broadway Ave., in Galveston</td>
<td>galvestonhistory.org/bishopspalace</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Blaffer Art Museum</td>
<td>4173 Elgin St., at UH</td>
<td>blafferartmuseum.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bryan Museum</td>
<td>1315 21st St., in Galveston</td>
<td>thebryanmuseum.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Buffalo Soldier National Museum</td>
<td>3816 Caroline St., Midtown</td>
<td>buffalosoldiermuseum.com</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Children’s Museum of Houston</td>
<td>1500 Binz St., Museum District</td>
<td>cmhouston.org</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Contemporary Arts Museum Houston</td>
<td>5216 Montrose Blvd., Museum District</td>
<td>camh.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Czech Center Museum Houston</td>
<td>4920 San Jacinto St., Midtown</td>
<td>czechcenter.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>DiverseWorks</td>
<td>3400 Main St., #292, Museum District</td>
<td>diverseworks.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Fort Bend Museum</td>
<td>500 Houston St., in Richmond</td>
<td>fortbendmuseum.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Galveston County Historical Museum</td>
<td>722 Moody Ave., in Galveston</td>
<td>galvestoncountymuseum.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Galveston Railroad Museum</td>
<td>2602 Santa Fe Place, in Galveston</td>
<td>galvestonrrmuseum.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>George Ranch Historical Park</td>
<td>10205 FM 762, in Richmond</td>
<td>geogeranch.org</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Health Museum</td>
<td>1515 Hermann Dr., Museum District</td>
<td>thehealthmuseum.org</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Heritage Society</td>
<td>1100 Bagby St., Downtown</td>
<td>heritagesociety.org</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Holocaust Museum Houston</td>
<td>5401 Caroline St., Museum District</td>
<td>hmh.org</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Houston Center for Contemporary Craft</td>
<td>4848 Main St., Museum District</td>
<td>crafthouston.org</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Houston Center for Photography</td>
<td>1441 W. Alabama St., Montrose</td>
<td>hcpponline.org</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Houston Fire Museum</td>
<td>2403 Milam St., Midtown</td>
<td>houstonfiremuseum.org</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Houston Maritime Museum</td>
<td>2311 Canal St., EaDo</td>
<td>houstonmaritime.org</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Houston Museum of African American Culture</td>
<td>4807 Caroline St., Museum District</td>
<td>hmaac.org</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Houston Museum of Natural Science</td>
<td>5555 Hermann Park Dr., Museum District</td>
<td>hmns.org</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Houston Zoo</td>
<td>6200 Hermann Park Dr., Museum District</td>
<td>houstonzoo.org</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Museum Name</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Jung Center</td>
<td>5200 Montrose Blvd., Museum District</td>
<td>junghouston.org</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Lawndale Art Center</td>
<td>4912 Main St., Museum District</td>
<td>lawndaleartcenter.org</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Lone Star Flight Museum</td>
<td>11551 Aerospace Ave., Southeast Houston</td>
<td>lonestarflight.org</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Menil Collection</td>
<td>1533 Sul Ross St., Montrose</td>
<td>menil.org</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Moody Mansion Museum</td>
<td>2618 Broadway Avenue J, in Galveston</td>
<td>moodymansion.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Museum of American Architecture</td>
<td>7502 Fondren Rd., at HBU</td>
<td>hbu.edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Museum of Fine Arts</td>
<td>1001 Bissonnet St., Museum District</td>
<td>mfah.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>National Museum of Funeral History</td>
<td>415 Barren Springs Dr., North Houston</td>
<td>nmfh.org</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig &amp;</td>
<td>2002 Wharf Rd., in Galveston</td>
<td>oceanstaroec.com</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Orange Show Center for Visionary Art</td>
<td>2401 Munger St., EaDo</td>
<td>orangeshow.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Printing Museum</td>
<td>1324 W. Clay St., River Oaks</td>
<td>printingmuseum.org</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Project Row Houses</td>
<td>2521 Holman St., Third Ward</td>
<td>projectrowhouses.org</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Rienzi</td>
<td>1406 Kirby Dr., River Oaks</td>
<td>mfah.org/rienzic</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>Rothko Chapel</td>
<td>3900 Yupon St., Montrose</td>
<td>rothkochapel.org</td>
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<td>San Jacinto Monument &amp; Museum of</td>
<td>One Monument Circle, in La Porte</td>
<td>sanjacinto-museum.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Sea Center Texas</td>
<td>302 Medical Dr., in Lake Jackson</td>
<td>tpwd.texas.gov</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Seawolf Park</td>
<td>100 Seawolf Parkway, in Galveston</td>
<td>galveston.com/seawolfpark</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Shrine of The Black Madonna Cultural Center</td>
<td>5309 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Third Ward</td>
<td>shrinesoftheblackmadonna.org</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Space Center Houston</td>
<td>1601 NASA Road 1, Clear Lake</td>
<td>spacecenter.org</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Station Museum of Contemporary Art</td>
<td>1502 Alabama St., Midtown</td>
<td>stationmuseum.org</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Texas Seaport Museum</td>
<td>2200 Harborside Dr., in Galveston</td>
<td>galveston.com/texasseaport-museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>U.S. Custom House</td>
<td>502 20th St., in Galveston</td>
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**Area Attractions**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Alkek Velodrome</td>
<td>19008 Saums Rd., in Cullen Park</td>
<td>alkekvelodrome.com</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>Armand Bayou Nature Center</td>
<td>8500 Bay Area Blvd., in Pasadena</td>
<td>abnc.org</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Bayou Place</td>
<td>500 Texas Ave., Downtown</td>
<td>bayouplace.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Bayou Wildlife Zoo</td>
<td>5050 FM 517, in Alvin</td>
<td>bayouwildlifezoo.com</td>
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<td>BBVA Compass Stadium</td>
<td>2200 Texas Ave., EaDo</td>
<td>bbvastadium.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Brazos Bend State Park</td>
<td>21901 FM 762, in Needville</td>
<td>brazosbend.org</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<td>Buffalo Bayou Cistern</td>
<td>105 Sabine St., Downtown</td>
<td>buffalobayou.org</td>
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<td>Buffalo Bayou Park</td>
<td>1800 Allen Pkwy., Downtown</td>
<td>buffalobayou.org</td>
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<td>59</td>
<td>Constellation Field</td>
<td>1 Stadium Dr., in Sugar Land</td>
<td>sugarlandskeeters.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Discovery Green</td>
<td>1500 McKinney St., Downtown</td>
<td>discoverygreen.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Downtown Aquarium</td>
<td>410 Bagby St., Downtown</td>
<td>aquariumrestaurants.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier</td>
<td>2501 Seawall Blvd., in Galveston</td>
<td>pleasurepier.com</td>
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<td>63</td>
<td>George R. Brown Convention Center</td>
<td>1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Downtown</td>
<td>grbhoustong.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Gulf Greyhound Park</td>
<td>1000 FM 2004, in La Marque</td>
<td>gulfgreyhound.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Hermann Park</td>
<td>6001 Fannin St., Museum District</td>
<td>hermannpark.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Houston Arboretum &amp; Nature Center</td>
<td>4501 Woodway Dr., Memorial</td>
<td>houstonarboretum.org</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>Houston Motorsports Park</td>
<td>11620 N. Lake Houston Pkwy., at Lake Houston</td>
<td>houstonmotorsportpark.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Houston Public Library</td>
<td>500 McKinney St., Downtown</td>
<td>houstonlibrary.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Houston Visitors Center</td>
<td>1001 Avenida de las Americas, Downtown</td>
<td>visithoustontexas.com</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>Houston Zoo</td>
<td>6200 Hermann Park Drive, Museum District</td>
<td>houstonzoo.org</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>Kemah Boardwalk</td>
<td>215 Kipp Ave., in Kemah</td>
<td>kemahboardwalk.com</td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>Memorial Park</td>
<td>6501 Memorial Dr., Memorial</td>
<td>memorialparkconservancy.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Minute Maid Park</td>
<td>501 Crawford St., Downtown</td>
<td>astros.mlb.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Moody Gardens</td>
<td>1 Hope Blvd., in Galveston</td>
<td>moodygardens.com</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>NRG Stadium</td>
<td>8400 Kirby Dr., in South Houston</td>
<td>nrgpark.com</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>Royal Purple Raceway</td>
<td>2525 FM 565, in Baytown</td>
<td>houstonraceway.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Sam Houston Race Park</td>
<td>7575 N. Sam Houston Parkway West, Northwest Houston</td>
<td>shrp.com</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>Schlitterbahn Galveston Island</td>
<td>2026 Lockheed Rd., in Galveston</td>
<td>schlitterbahn.com/galveston</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>The Galleria</td>
<td>5085 Westheimer Rd., Galleria</td>
<td>simon.com</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>The Strand Historic District</td>
<td>2228 Mechanic St., in Galveston</td>
<td>galveston.com/downtowntour</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>Toyota Center</td>
<td>1510 Polk St., Downtown</td>
<td>houstontoyotacenter.com</td>
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<td>82</td>
<td>Traders Village</td>
<td>7979 N. Eldridge Pkwy., Northwest Houston</td>
<td>tradersvillage.com/houston</td>
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<td>83</td>
<td>Uptown Park</td>
<td>1121 Uptown Park Blvd., Uptown</td>
<td>uptownparkhouston.com</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>Hurricane Harbor Splashtown</td>
<td>21300 N. Interstate 45, in Spring</td>
<td>wetnwildsplashtown.com</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>Williams Tower Water Wall</td>
<td>2800 Post Oak Blvd., Galleria</td>
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<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Woodlands Town Center</td>
<td>10001 Woodloch Forest Dr., in The Woodlands</td>
<td>thewoodlandstx.com/towncenter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS

JANUARY

Chevron Houston Marathon More than 200,000 spectators cheer on 20,000 runners as they endure 26.2-, 13.1-, and 3.1-mile races. 713-957-3453 · chevronhoustonmarathon.com

Martin Luther King Jr. Grande Parade Supporters march through Houston to celebrate the life and legacy of the civil rights leader. 713-953-1633 · mlkgrandeparade.org

FEBRUARY

Chinese Lunar New Year Festival Join more than 15,000 visitors for a full day of music, food and more to celebrate the Lunar New Year. 713-271-6100 · ccchiangou.com

Mardi Gras Galveston The island’s Mardi Gras celebration, celebrating 110 years in 2021, draws more than 350,000 revelers. 713-529-1396 · mardigrasgalveston.com

MARCH

Azalea Trail The River Oaks Garden Club homages the beautiful flowers that flourish during springtime in Houston. 713-523-2483 · riveroaksgardenclub.com

Buffalo Bayou Regatta More than 200 paddlers take to Buffalo Bayou to participate in the state’s largest canoe and kayak race. 713-752-0314 · buffalobayou.com

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo NRG Stadium hosts 20 championship rodeo competitions, the World’s Championship Bar-B-Que Competition, parades, music, and more. 832-667-1000 · rodeohouston.com

Houston Barbecue Festival Enjoy a parade, a barbecue cook-off, a beauty pageant, arts and crafts, live music — and the world’s largest strawberry shortcake. 281-991-9500 · houbbq.com

JUNE

Carnival Houston Show & Parade Music, cuisine, revelry, a costume parade, and dance performances are just part of the celebration of Brazilian culture around the city. 832-614-9337 · carnivalhouston.com

July

Freedom Over Texas Festival Houston’s official Fourth of July celebration takes place at Eleanor Tinsley Park, with live music, food, drink — and a Texas-size fireworks display. 713-247-3500 · houstontexasfireworks.com

Houston Shakespeare Festival For more than 40 years, the University of Houston has paid tribute to the famous playwright with free performances in Hermann Park. 713-743-2929 · houstontx.gov

Star Spangled Salute The Houston Symphony performs at Miller Outdoor Theatre, followed by fireworks and a 16-cannon salute. 713-533-3276 · houstontx.gov

AUGUST

AIA Sandcastle Competition More than 60 teams sculpt piles of sand to be judged on originality, artistic execution, technical difficulty and carving technique. 713-520-0155 · aiahoustongroup.com

Houston International Jazz Festival See some of the biggest names in jazz perform Downtown. 713-839-7000 · jazzeducation.org

Theater District Open House Get to know Houston’s world-class Theater District with backstage tours, live performances, and set and costume displays. 713-658-8938 · theaterdistrictopenhouse.com

SEPTEMBER

Fiestas Patrias International Parade Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with dancers spinning down the streets to festive music and the crowning of Miss Fiestas Patrias. 281-890-5500 · hispanichouston.com
**OCTOBER**

**Bayou City Art Festival** A fun and interactive outdoor event — Downtown in October, and in Memorial Park in March — this giant fest showcases the works of more than 300 fine artists and craftsmen. 713-521-0133 · artcolonyassociation.org

**Día de los Muertos** The Lawndale Art Center celebrates the art, music and folklife of Mexico. 713-528-5858 · lawndaleartcenter.org

**Festa Italiana** Celebrate Italian heritage with a weekend full of grape-stomping, bocce ball, a car show, music, children’s activities, a pasta-eating contest and more. 713-524-4222, ext. 3 · houstonitalianfestival.com

**The Original Greek Festival** Festivalgoers gather at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral to celebrate Grecian culture with authentic food, wine, dancing, and artifacts. 713-526-5377 · greekfestival.org

**Texas Renaissance Festival** The Texas Renaissance Festival is the nation’s largest Renaissance-themed park. Over the course of eight themed weekends, more than 500,000 guests enjoy food, drink, magicians, jugglers, minstrels, troubadours and comedians. 281-356-2178 · texrenfest.com

**Texian Market Days** Discover more than 150 years of Texas history at the George Ranch Historical Park with hands-on activities, battle re-enactments, music, food, shopping and more. 281-343-0219 · texianmarketdays.com

**Wings Over Houston Airshow** Onlookers enjoy aerial acrobatics by U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the Navy’s Blue Angels. 713-266-4492 · wingsoverhouston.com

**NOVEMBER**

**Houston Nutcracker Market** Held at NRG Center, this popular, four-day annual fundraiser for the Houston Ballet offers unique holiday decor, gifts, toys, food and more. 713-535-3231 · nutcrackermarket.com

**International Quilt Festival** The George R. Brown Convention Center hosts the world’s largest annual quilt show, sale, and quilt-making academy. 713-781-6864 · quilts.com

**Turkish Festival** Celebrate the Turkish culture with authentic food, wine, coffee, dancing, arts and crafts, and family fun. atahtx.org

**Native American Championship Pow Wow** Celebrate Native American culture and heritage at Traders Village with tribal dance contests, an arts-and-crafts show, tipis and more. 281-890-5500 · tradervillage.com

**Veterans Day** Celebration The City of Houston salutes our Armed Forces with a parade and job fair. houstontx.gov

**H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade** More than 200,000 parade-goers line the streets to get a glimpse of floats, marching bands, and more. houstontx.gov/thanksgivingparade

**Zoo Lights** Get into the holiday spirit at the Houston Zoo, which opens its gates after-dark for an awe-inspiring spectacle of Christmas lights. Runs through January. 713-533-6500 · houstonzoo.org

**DECEMBER**

**Candlelight Tour in the Park** Go back in time with decorations and costumed carolers celebrating the season at the historic homes around Downtown’s Sam Houston Park. 713-655-1912 · heritagesociety.org

**Chanukah Fest** Head to City Hall to celebrate Chanukah with concerts, family-friendly activities, food, fireworks and more. 713-774-0300 · chabadoutreach.org

**Dickens on the Strand** Galveston’s annual holiday street festival, based on 19th-century Victorian London, features parades, six stages of entertainment, strolling carolers, roving musicians and costumed vendors peddling their wares. 409-765-7834 · galvestonhistory.org

**Mayor’s Holiday Celebration** Ring in the holiday season at Hermann Square Park with fireworks, choirs, Santa, and a toy drive benefiting the Salvation Army. The event culminates with a tree-lighting ceremony outside City Hall. houstontx.gov/mayorsholiday
JOB OPPORTUNITIES
The area surrounding Downtown's George R. Brown Convention Center
THE HOUSTON Metropolitan Statistical Area is home to almost 3.1 million jobs, currently the highest level of employment in the region’s history. Among the region’s largest employers are Memorial Hermann Health System, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, United Airlines and Exxon Mobil Corporation. Houston offers a well developed suite of key global industries — including energy, life sciences, manufacturing, logistics and aerospace. As these industries digitize, Houston is a hotbed of rapid technological development thanks to our access to customers and expertise.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The industries accounting for the largest number of jobs across the Houston region include health care and social assistance, retail trade, government and professional services. Metro Houston ranks fourth in the nation in Fortune 500 headquarters, and third in Fortune 1000. Many additional Fortune firms maintain U.S. offices in Houston. The Texas Workforce Commission reports that metro Houston is home to more than 157,000 establishments. The three industries with the most establishments are professional, scientific, and technical services; health care and social assistance; and retail trade. These three industries comprise 38 percent of the region’s business establishments. More than half of the metro’s establishments employ between one and four workers.
### HOUSTON MSA EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTILITIES</td>
<td>$126,568</td>
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<td>INFORMATION</td>
<td>$73,840</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION</td>
<td>$54,400</td>
<td>3,440</td>
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<td>REAL ESTATE</td>
<td>$66,040</td>
<td>63,400</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>$52,468</td>
<td>63,700</td>
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<td>ENERGY</td>
<td>$154,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCE &amp; INSURANCE</td>
<td>$96,980</td>
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<td>OTHER SERVICES</td>
<td>$43,680</td>
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<td>TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING</td>
<td>$73,372</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHOLESALE TRADE</td>
<td>$81,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICE</td>
<td>$50,180</td>
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<td>CONSTRUCTION</td>
<td>$73,684</td>
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<td>MANUFACTURING</td>
<td>$85,000</td>
<td>241,000</td>
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<td>SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES</td>
<td>$101,296</td>
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<td>ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES</td>
<td>$21,944</td>
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<td>RETAIL</td>
<td>$33,540</td>
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<td>HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE</td>
<td>$55,692</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>$68,380</td>
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</table>

**HOUfact!**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, if Houston were a state, it would employ more people than Tennessee, Wisconsin or Minnesota.

**By the Numbers**

- **3.1 mil**
  Number of jobs in the Houston MSA

- **500**
  Number of Houston-based, venture-backed startups in the consumer and business services, health care, data analytics, software, biotech and energy sectors

- **300,000**
  Number of educated millennials who call Houston home. The city also boasts 240,000 STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) workers.

- **19**
  Number of Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Houston

- **$490.1**
  Houston’s regional GDP in billions, which has grown by $100 billion (inflation-adjusted) over the past decade
A thriving international city, Houston's ties stretch to all corners of the world. The region’s geographic location makes it easy to move both goods and people around the globe. With one of the largest ports in the country and two international airports, Houston connects companies to the world.

The region is unabashedly pro-growth and opportunity-rich, with a distinctly business-friendly environment at both the state and local level. Costs of doing business are significantly lower than in other major metropolitan areas, and the State of Texas has one of the lowest tax burdens in the nation. Houston offers a low cost of living while maintaining an incredibly high quality of life with world-class culture, sports and culinary attractions. Houston truly is a great global city.
LARGEST HOUSTON-AREA EMPLOYERS

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<th>More than 20,000 employees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Hermann Health System*</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Texas MD Anderson*</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Airlines</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>5,000 to 9,999 employees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chevron*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baylor College of Medicine*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARAMARK Corp.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haliburton</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<th>10,000 to 14,999 employees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Methodist Hospital System*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exxon Mobil Corporation*</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTMB Health*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kroger Company*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell Oil Company*</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Oilwell Varco</td>
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<td>Schlumberger Limited*</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>5,000 employees</th>
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<tr>
<td>HCA*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hewlett Packard Enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dow Chemical Company*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHI St. Luke's Health*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobs*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.E.B.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Children's Hospital*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP America, Inc.*</td>
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<tr>
<td>KBR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Ranked by number of employees. The list does not include casual dining establishments, municipalities, school districts, community colleges, public universities (except UTMB Health and The University of Texas MD Anderson) and governmental agencies. *Denotes member of the Greater Houston Partnership. Source: Greater Houston Partnership Database, June 2016.
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership
bayareahouston.com

Baytown/West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation
281-420-2961

BNSF
bnsf.com

Brookshire Economic Development
brookshirertexas.org

CenterPoint Energy
centerpointenergy.com

Central Houston, Inc.
centralhouston.org

City of Alvin
alvin-tx.gov

City of Deer Park
deerparktx.gov

City of Friendswood
ci.friendswood.tx.us

City of Fulshear
fulsheartexas.gov

City of Hitchcock
cityofhitchcock.org

City of Houston
houstontx.gov

City of Huntsville
huntsvilletx.gov

City of Kemah
kemah-tx.gov

City of La Porte
laportetx.gov

City of League City
leaguecity.com

City of Meadows Place
cityofmeadowsplace.org

City of Missouri City
missouricitytx.gov

City of Mont Belvieu
montbelvieu.net

City of Pasadena
ci.pasadena.tx.us

City of Rosenberg
rosenbergecoddev.com

City of Santa Fe
ci.santa-fe.tx.us

City of Seabrook
seabrooktx.gov

City of Sugar Land
sugarlandtx.gov

City of Texas City
texas-city-tx.org

City of Webster
cityofwebster.com

City of Willis
cl.willis.tx.us

City Development Corporation of El Campo
elcampoeco.org

Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce
cyfairchamber.com

Dayton Community Development Corp.
dayontx.retail360.us

Development Corporation of Richmond
richmondtx.gov

East Montgomery County Improvement District
emctx.com

Economic Alliance Houston Port Region
allianceportregion.com

The Economic Development Alliance for Brazoria County
eda-bc.com

Energy Corridor Management District
energycorridor.org

Entergy Texas
entergy-texas.com

Fort Bend County
fortbendcountytx.gov

Galveston County Economic Alliance
gcea.us

Galveston Economic Development Partnership
gedp.org

Greater Conroe Economic Development Council
gcedc.org

Greater East End Management District
greatereastend.com

Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council
fortbendcounty.org

Greater Houston Partnership
ghp.org

Greater Northside Management District
greaternorthside.org

Harris County
budget.harriscountytx.org

Houston East End Chamber of Commerce
eecoc.org

Houston Intercontinental Chamber of Commerce
houstonicc.org

Houston-Galveston Area Council
h-gac.com

JOB SEARCH

To help find the job that’s right for you, try these resources:

Workforce Solutions
This network of 29 career centers located throughout the Gulf Coast region provides free job services. Locations and a variety of information can be found at wrksolutions.com.

Texas Workforce Commission
This state-sponsored coalition of 28 local workforce development boards can be reached at twc.texas.gov.

Greater Houston Partnership
The Partnership provides links to the career pages of many of the city’s largest companies at Houston.org/greater-houston-partnership/employers.

Texas Workforce
One of the state’s most comprehensive online job resources can be found at workintexas.com.

Houston Chronicle
The city’s morning newspaper features an online listing of jobs at chron.com/jobs.
### Selected Asian Companies with a Houston Presence

- **Toyota**
- **Panasonic**
- **Honda**
- **Hitachi**
- **Sony**
- **Samsung**
- **Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group**
- **Hyundai**
- **Toshiba**
- **JX Nippon Oil & Energy**
- **NISSAN**

### Selected European Companies with a Houston Presence

- **Shell**
- **BP**
- **Volkswagen**
- **ThyssenKrupp**
- **Total**
- **ING**
- **Daimler**
- **Allianz**
- **Prudential**
- **BASF**
- **Deutsche Telekom Leistungen**
- **Vodafone**
- **Credit Agricole**
- **SK Holdings**
- **ING**
- **Allianz**
- **Prudential**
- **BASF**
- **Deutsche Telekom Leistungen**
- **Vodafone**
- **Credit Agricole**
- **SK Holdings**

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**Katy Area Chamber of Commerce**
katychamber.com

**Katy Area Economic Development Council**
katyedc.com

**Kansas City Southern Railroad**
kcsothern.com

**Lake Houston Economic Development**
lakehouston.edp.org

**La Marque Economic Development Corporation**
lmedc.com

**The Lone Star College System**
lonestar.edu

**Montgomery Economic Development Corporation**
montgomerytexas.gov

**North Houston Association**
north-houston.com

**North Houston District**
northhouston.org

**Oak Ridge North Economic Development Corporation**
oakridgenorthedc.com

**Pearland Economic Development Corp.**
pearlandedc.com

**Port Freeport**
portfreeport.com

**Port of Galveston**
portofgalveston.com

**Port Houston**
porthouston.com

**The Port City of Texas**
tcrr.com

**San Jacinto College District**
sanjac.edu

**Sealy Economic Development Corporation**
sealyedc.com

**Tomball Economic Development Corporation**
tomballtxedc.org

**Union Pacific Railroad Company**
up.com

**Uptown Houston District**
uptown-houston.com

**Waller County Economic Development Partnership**
wallercounty.org

**Waller Economic Development Corporation**
wallertexas.com/business

**West Houston Association**
westhouston.org

**Westchase District**
westchasedistrict.com

**Wharton County Economic Development Partnership**
whartonedc.com

**The Woodlands Area Economic Development Partnership**
edpartnership.net
MSA contains more than 60 school districts and approximately 40 state-approved charter school management organizations, as well as a range of private and parochial schools. Houston Independent School District is the seventh-largest school district in the country, with an enrollment of more than 214,000 students. Altogether, the region’s ISDs and charter schools enroll more than 1.3 million students annually — that’s about one out of every four school-aged children in Texas!

HISD AT A GLANCE

Houston ISD has a variety of programs to meet the area’s educational needs, including:

- Magnet programs and Vanguard/SIGHTS (for gifted students) offer enrichment instruction in arts, math, science and physical development.
- Multilingual programs offer bilingual education and English as a second language for students not yet proficient in English.
- Early childhood programs help prepare children younger than age five for the school experience.
- Special education programs serve students with various physical, emotional and learning disabilities, beginning at age three.
- Career and vocational programs feature job-oriented instruction and experience in such fields as office education, culinary arts, printing and auto mechanics.
- Alternative programs use innovative instruction in non-traditional learning environments to help students who are in jeopardy of dropping out of school.
SELECTING THE RIGHT SCHOOL

Start by visiting the school district’s website, then check sites such as TXSchools.gov and Schools.TexasTribune.org. Be sure to visit the schools you are interested in, and ask if they can connect you with other parents who might be willing to talk about their experiences! Here are some other important answers to seek in selecting the right school.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK
- What is the present enrollment? Is the district’s enrollment growing, stabilizing or declining?
- What are the district’s educational philosophies, goals and objectives?
- What type of parent involvement or community involvement is available?
- What is the ratio of pupil to instructional staff? (How are the ratios figured? Do they include classroom teachers only, or do they include other building-level instructional personnel?)
- What is the per-student spending level?
- Have facilities been updated lately?
- What type of learning tools (computers, iPads, etc.) do the schools offer?
- What costs to parents (for sports, arts, bussing, lunches, etc.) are involved?

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
- Is there a curriculum document available that outlines the goals and objectives of courses?
- Are there programs for remediation? For gifted education? For special education? For vocational/career education? For the specific needs/interests of your child/children?
- What types of co-curricular and extracurricular activities (including athletics) are available?
- Do students have access to libraries? Are there certified librarians available to assist students?

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
- Which standardized tests are used?
- How well do their students score on the STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)? (The STAAR program includes annual assessments for grades 3-8 in reading and mathematics; assessments in science at grades 5 and 8; and in social studies at grade 8; and end-of-course assessments for English I, English II, Algebra I, biology and U.S. History.)
- What is the average SAT score? How does this compare to neighboring districts, and the state and national averages?
- What is the dropout rate in the district?

STAFF
- Are there guidance counselors in each school?
- Are there school nurses available to assist with health services?
- What is the average number of years of teaching experience of the staff?
- Does the district offer staff development for its employees?

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Roughly 33 percent of adults in Houston have earned a college degree, on par with the 34 percent average nationwide. The Houston region contains an above-average percentage of college graduates with degrees in science, engineering and business. Houston has a well educated workforce with strengths in science, engineering and business fields of study.

HISD By Numbers

279 total schools
209,040 students
8 early childhood schools
160 elementary schools
38 middle schools
37 high schools
62% Hispanic
23.3% African American
4.2% Asian
9% White
100 languages spoken
As one may expect in a city the size of Houston, educational opportunities and options are abundant and varied. Within the nine-county greater metropolitan area, there are more than 60 school districts, as well as dozens of state-approved charter schools and hundreds of private schools. The Houston Independent School District (Houston ISD) is the largest public-school district in Texas, and the seventh largest in the United States.

From day care and preschools to community colleges and nationally ranked universities, Houston possesses a full range of educational opportunities for all ages. Access to quality education is critical to the long-term success of our region, and to the families who call Houston home.

In general, Houston schools are divided into three levels: elementary schools for prekindergarten through fifth grade, middle schools for grades six through eight, and high schools for grades nine through 12. State law requires that schools maintain an average student-to-teacher ratio of no more than 30 to one.

Included in the mix are charter schools and magnet schools. Charter schools are autonomous, open-enrollment institutions that use state funding to provide innovative learning opportunities with greater flexibility than traditional public schools. Magnet schools are designed to promote high achievement and cultural diversity, and offer a choice of curricula through a variety of specialized programs. In Houston ISD, magnet programs are available for fine arts, engineering, criminal justice, foreign languages, health careers, and several other fields.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK
One way to learn more about a school is to contact the school district by phone, or visit its website, which is a valuable source of information offering district statistics and information on individual schools. A valuable but often overlooked way to locate a new school is old-fashioned word of mouth. Colleagues already established in Houston can be helpful, as can your real estate agent, future neighbors, relatives and friends.

Part of your background research should include reading information on prospective schools and talking to administrators over the phone. You can visit TXSchools.gov for a “report card” on schools across the state that looks at academic performance, accountability ratings and more.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS
If the school that you are investigating sounds promising, schedule a visit. Be prepared to follow up with more interviews and an evaluation for your child. If possible, try to visit a prospective school while the school term is still in session.

Bring a written list of questions and include questions about student-teacher ratios, computer availability, extracurricular activities, multilingual programs, and accelerated programs. Ask how students are tested and graded, how these results are reported, and the amount of parental participation in the school.

After all your research, you still must balance where you wish to live, the commuting distance from home to work, and your “gut feelings” about the schools you have seen. Your family’s ability to readily adapt to a move, and to find happiness in a new environment, may depend, in part, on how happy your children are in their new school.
## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISD</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>COMPLETION RATE</th>
<th>COLLEGE- &amp; CAREER-READY GRADUATES</th>
<th>SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AUSTIN COUNTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellville</td>
<td>bellville.k12.tx.us</td>
<td>979-865-3133</td>
<td>2,221</td>
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<td>Brazos</td>
<td>brazosisd.net</td>
<td>979-478-6551</td>
<td>825</td>
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<td>Sealy</td>
<td>sealyisd.com</td>
<td>979-885-3516</td>
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<td>Alvin</td>
<td>alvinisd.net</td>
<td>281-388-1130</td>
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<td>Angleton</td>
<td>angletonisd.net</td>
<td>979-864-8000</td>
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<td>Columbia-Brazoria</td>
<td>cbisd.com</td>
<td>979-345-5147</td>
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<td>Danbury</td>
<td>danburyisd.org</td>
<td>979-922-1218</td>
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<td>Pearland</td>
<td>pearlandisd.org</td>
<td>281-485-3203</td>
<td>21,526</td>
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<td>Sweeny</td>
<td>sweenyisd.org</td>
<td>979-491-8000</td>
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<td><strong>CHAMBERS COUNTY</strong></td>
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<td>Anahuac</td>
<td>anahuac.isd.esc4.net</td>
<td>409-267-3600</td>
<td>1,324</td>
<td>97.1%</td>
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<td>Barbers Hill</td>
<td>bhisd.net</td>
<td>281-576-2221</td>
<td>5,710</td>
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<td>East Chambers</td>
<td>eastchambers.net</td>
<td>409-296-6100</td>
<td>1,510</td>
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<td><strong>FORT BEND COUNTY</strong></td>
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<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td>fortbend.k12.tx.us</td>
<td>281-634-1000</td>
<td>75,797</td>
<td>95.9%</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamar Consolidated</td>
<td>lcisd.org</td>
<td>832-223-0000</td>
<td>33,347</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Needville</td>
<td>needvilleisd.com</td>
<td>979-793-4306</td>
<td>3,257</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stafford MSD</td>
<td>stafford.msd.esc4.net</td>
<td>281-261-9200</td>
<td>3,586</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<td><strong>GALVESTON COUNTY</strong></td>
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<td>Clear Creek</td>
<td>ccisd.net</td>
<td>281-284-0000</td>
<td>42,042</td>
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<td>Dickinson</td>
<td>dickinsonisd.org</td>
<td>281-229-6000</td>
<td>11,129</td>
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<td>Friendswood</td>
<td>fisdk12.net</td>
<td>281-482-1267</td>
<td>6,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galveston</td>
<td>gisd.org</td>
<td>409-766-5100</td>
<td>70,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Island</td>
<td>highislandisd.com</td>
<td>409-286-5317</td>
<td>142</td>
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<td>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hitchcock</td>
<td>hitchcockisd.org</td>
<td>409-316-6545</td>
<td>1,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Fe</td>
<td>sfisd.org</td>
<td>409-925-3526</td>
<td>4,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas City</td>
<td>tcisd.org</td>
<td>409-942-2810</td>
<td>8,537</td>
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<td><strong>HARRIS COUNTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aldine</td>
<td>aldineisd.org</td>
<td>281-449-1011</td>
<td>66,763</td>
<td>80.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alief</td>
<td>aliefisd.net</td>
<td>281-498-8110</td>
<td>45,423</td>
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<td>90.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Channelview</td>
<td>cvisd.org</td>
<td>281-452-8002</td>
<td>9,583</td>
<td>88.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crosby</td>
<td>crosbyisd.org</td>
<td>281-328-9200</td>
<td>6,308</td>
<td>91.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cypress-Fairbanks</td>
<td>cfisd.net</td>
<td>281-897-4000</td>
<td>116,245</td>
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<td>Deer Park</td>
<td>dpisd.org</td>
<td>832-668-7000</td>
<td>12,812</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galena Park</td>
<td>galenaparkisd.com</td>
<td>832-386-1000</td>
<td>22,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goose Creek</td>
<td>gccisd.net</td>
<td>281-420-4800</td>
<td>23,765</td>
<td>90.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>houstonisd.org</td>
<td>713-556-6005</td>
<td>209,040</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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<td>Huffman</td>
<td>huffmanisd.net</td>
<td>281-324-1871</td>
<td>3,529</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humble</td>
<td>humble.k12.tx.us</td>
<td>281-641-1000</td>
<td>43,441</td>
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<td>Katy</td>
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<td>281-396-6000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klein</td>
<td>kleinisd.net</td>
<td>832-249-4000</td>
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<td>La Porte</td>
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<td>281-604-7000</td>
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<td>Pasadena</td>
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<td>713-740-0000</td>
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<td>Sheldon</td>
<td>sheldonisd.com</td>
<td>281-727-2000</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>springisd.org</td>
<td>281-891-6000</td>
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<td>Spring Branch</td>
<td>springbranchisd.com</td>
<td>713-464-1511</td>
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<td>Tomball</td>
<td>tomballisd.net</td>
<td>281-357-3100</td>
<td>16,920</td>
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<td><strong>LIBERTY COUNTY</strong></td>
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<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>clevelandisd.org</td>
<td>281-592-8717</td>
<td>6,568</td>
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<td>Dayton</td>
<td>daytonisd.net</td>
<td>936-258-2667</td>
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<td>Hardin</td>
<td>hardinisd.net</td>
<td>936-298-2112</td>
<td>1,427</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hull-Daisetta</td>
<td>hdisd.net</td>
<td>936-536-6321</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>libertyisd.net</td>
<td>936-336-7213</td>
<td>2,220</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarkington</td>
<td>tarkingtonisd.net</td>
<td>281-592-8781</td>
<td>1,805</td>
<td>98.3%</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MONTGOMERY COUNTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Conroe</td>
<td>conroeisd.net</td>
<td>936-709-7751</td>
<td>62,577</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
<td>magnoliaisd.org</td>
<td>281-356-3571</td>
<td>13,231</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>misd.org</td>
<td>936-58-1333</td>
<td>8,837</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Caney</td>
<td>newcaneyisd.org</td>
<td>281-298-2112</td>
<td>15,360</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splendora</td>
<td>splendoraisd.org</td>
<td>281-689-3128</td>
<td>4,087</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willis</td>
<td>willisisd.org</td>
<td>936-856-1200</td>
<td>7,469</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
<td>64%</td>
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</table>
The core curriculum taught in Texas public schools consists of classes in English language arts, reading, mathematics, science and social studies. Additional courses are taught in foreign languages, fine arts, health, physical education and technology applications. Career-oriented courses are also available in agricultural science, business, health sciences, marketing and more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISD</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
<th>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>COMPLETION RATE</th>
<th>COLLEGE &amp; CAREER READY GRADUATES</th>
<th>SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE</th>
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<td>Waller</td>
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<td>Royal</td>
<td>royal-isd.com</td>
<td>281-934-2248</td>
<td>2,369</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hempstead</td>
<td>hempstead.isd.esc4.net</td>
<td>979-826-3304</td>
<td>1,573</td>
<td>82.7%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>C</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Each year, students come from around the world to attend the colleges and universities located within or just outside the Houston city limits. Undergraduate and postgraduate opportunities abound in the region. Houston’s proximity to research partners in business and government makes the city an attractive home for ambitious students, talented professors and their families. Whether you want to study the arts, medicine, literature, economics, engineering, fashion, communications or business, you will have access to many educational options as a Houston resident.

**HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**
*Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,313*
Houston Baptist University offers what few colleges can: a diverse academic community in a world-class city, devoted to excellence in knowledge and character through Christian principles. Students enjoy the benefits of a private education, but on a campus that offers a broad range of majors, NCAA Division I athletics, more than 70 student organizations, and all of the cultural and commercial amenities of Houston. hbu.edu

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON**
*Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,653*
Texas A&M University at Galveston, a branch campus of Texas A&M University, is the premier institution for maritime leadership and ocean and coastal studies on the Gulf Coast and offers seamless research, scholarship and learning opportunities between the two campuses. The institution incorporates diversity and inclusiveness as central tenets of its mission. The school’s 2,324 students originate from 43 states and the District...
of Columbia. Science and engineering majors comprise 84 percent of the student body, while 38 percent are women and about 11 percent of incoming students were in the top 20 percent of their high school class. Many students plan to pursue a master’s or doctoral degree, and 59 percent receive financial aid. tamug.edu

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Undergraduate Enrollment: 8,524
In 1876, the 15th Legislature of the State of Texas created Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), a land-grant university that’s now the second oldest institution of higher learning in the state. PVAMU began as an industrial school for African Americans but has evolved to meet changing needs. Dedicated to its mission of achieving excellence in teaching, research and service, PVAMU enjoys an established reputation for producing engineers, corporate leaders, nurses, and architects. PVAMU’s eight colleges and schools boast more than 50 degree programs, including engineering, natural sciences, architecture, business, nursing, and criminal and juvenile justice. pvamu.edu

RICE UNIVERSITY
Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,962
Ranked as one of the top 20 universities in the country, Rice University is an exceptional community offering students a world-class education. Rice’s schools of architecture, engineering, business, music, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences all rank among the top programs in their fields. Rice houses a variety of institutes and centers, including leading think-tank James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, and the Richard E. Smalley Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology — the first nanotechnology research center in the world. The Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies offers the prestigious master’s of liberal studies program, and one of the largest selections of noncredit arts and sciences courses in Texas. rice.edu

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Undergraduate Enrollment: 7,604
Nestled upon a sprawling 150-acre campus, Texas Southern University is one of the nation’s largest historically black universities (HBCU). TSU provides academic and research programs that address critical urban issues, and prepares an ethnically diverse student population to become a force of positive change in a global society. TSU offers more than 120 undergraduate and graduate programs and concentrations, and 80-plus student organizations. tsu.edu

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Undergraduate Enrollment: 37,369
Welcome to the powerhouse: More than 42,700 students attend the University of Houston (UH), known for its groundbreaking research, acclaimed faculty, and expertise in energy, health and the arts. UH’s location in Houston’s historic Third Ward neighborhood provides students close proximity to internship opportunities with Fortune 500 companies, law firms and arts organizations. More than 4,000 companies worldwide are owned and/or led by UH alumni. Recent additions to the 667-acre campus include the state-of-the-art TDECU football stadium and the development of a biomedical district. More than 7,000 students live on campus in residence halls, apartments and townhouses. Home to more than 300 degree programs, UH has the only space architecture graduate program and the nation’s first subsea engineering program. uh.edu

FIELD OF STUDY FOR BACHELOR’S AND HIGHER DEGREES

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2018 American Community Survey
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – CLEAR LAKE
Undergraduate Enrollment: 6,445
Nestled in a 524-acre nature preserve, University of Houston – Clear Lake is known for its close-knit community, attentive faculty and unique learning opportunities. Opportunities will grow as UH – Clear Lake prepares for several upcoming campus additions over the next few years: a recreation and wellness center, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) classroom building and, at the UHCL Pearland Campus, a health sciences and classroom building. The university offers more than 80 degree programs, including approximately 40 bachelor’s degree programs in four colleges: business, education, human sciences and humanities, and science and engineering. uhcl.edu

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS
Undergraduate Enrollment: 2,047
The University of St. Thomas educates leaders of faith and character through a Catholic liberal arts education that is both accessible and affordable. Students choose from 36 undergraduate majors, 19 graduate degree programs, and engineering, law, and health pre-professional programs. The most popular majors are biology, finance, psychology, accounting and nursing. More than 3,400 students attend Houston’s only Catholic university, located in the heart of the historic Museum District, where world-class museums, art galleries, restaurants, and shops abound. The proximity to Downtown and the Texas Medical Center enhances opportunities for research, internships and networking experiences. stthom.edu

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON – DOWNTOWN
Undergraduate Enrollment: 12,350
One of the most ethnically diverse four-year colleges in the Southwest, the University of Houston – Downtown offers bachelor’s degrees in 44 areas and master’s degrees in eight across its five colleges. One of the largest universities in Houston, UHD draws students by offering a collaborative learning experience with small class sizes, flexible scheduling, undergraduate research opportunities, and faculty with industry experience. Competitively priced tuition and fees make learning affordable. uhd.edu

MEDICAL SCHOOLS
If a career in medicine is in your future, you’ve definitely chosen the right city. Houston’s medical schools benefit from their proximity to the Texas Medical Center and their ability to tap into the many physicians and researchers that call Houston home. Area medical schools and health professional programs include:

- Bayou College of Medicine
- Texas Chiropractic College
- Texas Women’s University Institute of Health Science – Houston
- The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
- The University of Texas School of Public Health
- The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

LAW SCHOOLS
If your dream is to be a lawyer, there are several reputable law schools in the area worth exploring. You can find both private and public options here, as well as full- and part-time programs. Here are a few of the schools from which residents can choose.

- South Texas College of Law
- Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- University of Houston Law Center
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

If a traditional four-year college isn’t for you, Houston has many options by way of community colleges. With affordable yet exceptional educational options, Houston-area community colleges offer a wide variety of associate degrees and certificates and transfer programs to four-year institutions.

HOU NTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Undergraduate Enrollment: 48,309

Houston Community College (HCC) is the second-largest community college in the nation with the largest population of international students enrolling for courses annually. With 70,000 undergraduate students, HCC is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering a high quality, affordable education for academic advancement, workforce training, career and economic development, and lifelong learning to prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in a global and technological society. hccs.edu

LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM
Undergraduate Enrollment: 68,333

The Greater Houston Partnership estimates there are more than 74,000 annual job openings in middle-skills occupations — which require education beyond high school, but not a four-year degree — available in Houston. Lone Star College is planning for the future, with cutting-edge training programs to meet the need to fill the critical shortage of trained technical workers. As the largest higher-education institution in the greater Houston area, LSC has a huge impact on the local economy, adding $3.1 billion in annual economic benefit. lonestar.edu

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
Undergraduate Enrollment: 12,350

For more than 50 years, San Jacinto College has served the residents of east Harris County, providing affordable and convenient options in higher education. The College has an annual enrollment of approximately 30,000 diverse students who study in more than 200 degree and certificate options. San Jacinto College affords students the flexibility to take traditional classroom instruction, online courses, or classroom-online hybrid classes. You can also work on your degree in the evenings and on the weekends. sanjac.edu
HEALTH CARE
Texas Medical Center
The Med Center is the largest district of its type in the world.
minutes of world-class care! From the world-renowned Texas Medical Center south of Downtown to dynamic community hospitals in outlying areas, Houston is home to medical facilities and expertise that are second to none. The city’s hospitals are routinely ranked among the top in the nation, and many of Houston’s doctors and surgeons are considered number-one in their fields.

The Houston medical and life sciences community has unique bragging rights in many ways. But the most interesting may be that it has produced a recent Nobel prize laureate! Houston doctor Jim Allison of MD Anderson Cancer Center was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Medicine, along with Japan’s Tasuku Honjo, for his groundbreaking work in cancer research. Allison’s specialty has come to be known as immunotherapy, which is the boosting of the body’s own natural capacity to fight lung, kidney and other types of cancer. In recent years he’s been credited with saving or extending the lives of thousands of patients whose diagnosis would have been a death sentence just a decade ago.
The TMC Innovation complex is a collaborative initiative of the Texas Medical Center, pairing Houston’s best minds in medicine and cutting-edge technology with their counterparts around the world — to tackle an ambitious set of health care challenges. To date, nearly $5 billion has been raised to fund its initiatives, which have included advances in coronavirus testing, treatment and prevention.

By the Numbers

10 mil
Number of yearly patient encounters at Texas Medical Center

85
Number of hospitals in the Houston area

18,529
Number of licensed physicians in the Houston region

366K
Number of health care workers in the Houston area

56
Years since Houston surgeon Michael DeBakey performed the world’s first heart bypass

0
Number of American children’s hospitals larger than Texas Children’s Hospital

1
MD Anderson’s ranking among American cancer care hospitals
The Texas Medical Center is the largest of its kind in the world, with more than 10 million patient visits each year to its 54 member institutions. But Houston’s healthcare system extends far beyond the Med Center, with countless options for residents all over the region.

Patients come from all over the world to seek cancer treatment in Houston, where the facilities are consistently ranked the best in the nation. Cancer patients here are ensured the most groundbreaking research results and recent discoveries in clinical trials. University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (mdanderson.org) has a main campus in the Texas Medical Center; its Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences researches ways to prevent the disease. MD Anderson is dedicated to eradicating cancer through pioneering research in the roles that biologic, genetic, environmental, behavioral and social factors play in cancer development, and investigations of behavioral, surgical, medical and social interventions to prevent or reduce cancer risk. MD Anderson branches can be found in Bellaire, Katy, League City, Memorial City, Sugar Land and The Woodlands.

Meanwhile, Memorial Hermann offers the entire continuum of cancer care — prevention, education, screening, diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and rehabilitation. Patients can take advantage of cancer services in their own neighborhood through Memorial Hermann’s large and convenient network, which includes Cancer Centers, Breast Care Centers, acute care hospitals, and dozens of other affiliated programs.

For comprehensive women’s care, Woman’s Hospital of Texas (womanshospital.com), located in the Texas Medical Center, offers gynecological surgery and other services including postpartum, infertility, breast care, radiation and gynecology. And St. Joseph Medical Center opened its doors as “the first freestanding women’s hospital west of the
Mississippi in Downtown Houston in 1887; today, St. Joseph Medical Center offers pregnancy-planning and maternity services, nutritional consultations, breast care, weight reduction, gynecological surgery, urology and more. Additionally, St. Joseph Medical Center provides a neonatal care intensive care unit, cosmetic surgery, and inpatient and outpatient surgical services.

Houston is home to some of the world’s best children’s hospitals. Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital has been caring for women and children under one roof longer than any other Houston hospital. Its campus in the Texas Medical Center boasts the Gulf Coast region’s leading Level I pediatric trauma center, Levels III and IV neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), and The Fetal Center, to ensure mothers with high-risk pregnancies and their babies receive comprehensive care using the latest treatments. Additionally, the hospital hosts specialty programs including neurosciences, orthopedics and sports medicine, cardiac care, transplantation, and general and specialty surgery. The hospital is affiliated with McGovern Medical School at UTHouston and has several campuses across the region.

The award-winning Texas Children’s Hospital, which is affiliated with the Baylor College of Medicine, is a world-renowned pediatric comprehensive care center. The hospital has garnered widespread recognition for its expertise and breakthrough developments in the treatment of cancer, diabetes, asthma, HIV, premature babies, and cardiogenic and attention-related disorders.

The Houston area has an abundance of services for the elderly, including more than 280 assisted-living facilities, 80 skilled-care facilities and approximately 30 independent-living communities. Additionally, home health care is provided through a number of organizations, such as Sheltering Arms (shelteringarms.org).

Health Care for the Homeless-Houston (homeless-healthcare.org) serves the homeless community in Houston through comprehensive health care and outreach to those who live on the streets and in shelters. Dr. David Buck founded Health Care for the Homeless after serving with Mother Theresa and completing medical school at the Baylor College of Medicine. His desire was to provide the homeless with care in a dignified and compassionate way.
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Baylor Clinic, an adult outpatient health care system, applies the research and advances made by the Baylor College of Medicine in a clinical setting. The Baylor College of Medicine joined the Texas Medical Center in 1943, by invitation of the MD Anderson Foundation.

HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

According to the American Hospital Association, Harris County Hospital District — with three hospitals, 11 community health centers, five school-based clinics and three specialty centers — ranks fifth in the nation for the size of the metropolitan health care system they provide in Houston. The Harris County Hospital District provides a tax-supported health care system, providing service to the Harris County community. Ben Taub, a hospital with full medical services, is an integral part of the Harris County Hospital District.
THE HOUSTON HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE SYSTEMS
The community-supported nonprofit Houston Hospice was founded in 1980 to provide end-of-life care to Houston patients and their families. It provides both resident and in-home care, along with bereavement counseling to family members and loved ones.

MEMORIAL HERMANN
The Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center Campus includes the primary teaching hospital for McGovern Medical School at UTHealth and the Red Duke Trauma Institute, a Level I trauma center, with more than 300,000 visits annually. The hospital was the first to open in the medical center, in 1925, and is part of the Memorial Hermann Health System, the largest not-for-profit health system in Southeast Texas. The Memorial Hermann network includes four hospitals in the Texas Medical Center with others in Cypress, Katy, Sugar Land, The Woodlands, Pearland and the northwest, southeast, and southwest areas of Houston.

METHODIST HOSPITAL
Methodist Hospital was once the home of internationally celebrated heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, and it continues to have an acclaimed cardiac center today. The health care system is among the country’s top centers for cancer, diabetes, endocrinology, ear, nose, and throat, gastroenterology, geriatrics, gynecology, heart and heart surgery, kidney disorders, neurology, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology. The Methodist Hospital system has branches in Sugar Land, West Houston, Willowbrook and San Jacinto.

CHI ST. LUKE’S HEALTH BAYLOR
ST. LUKE’S MEDICAL CENTER
Home to one of the top 10 heart centers in the nation, the Texas Heart Institute at CHI St. Luke’s Health Baylor – St. Luke’s Medical Center is where the first heart transplant in the United States was performed, thanks to the pioneering work of Dr. Denton Cooley. Caring for more than a half-million patients each year as an academic medical center, Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center was the first in the Southwest designated a magnet hospital for nursing excellence, and the first to receive the designation three times — in 2001, 2005 and 2009.

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN
Shriners Hospitals for Children serves as a pediatric orthopedic hospital with specific care for reconstructive surgeries after an injury. Also known for its burn unit, Shriners Hospitals for Children began treating burn victims in the 1960s and is acclaimed for its progress in skin grafts and engineered skin. Shriners Hospitals for Children was founded in 1922 and now has the largest number of pediatric orthopedic surgeons in the United States.

ST. DOMINIC VILLAGE
St. Dominic Village in the Texas Medical Center is the mission of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, providing senior care with the values and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. St. Dominic Village provides world-renowned care to its residents through the neighboring medical center. With 27 acres, the St. Dominic Village provides activities, dining, health care and a sense of community to residents.

TEXAS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
Texas Children’s is internationally recognized for exceptional comprehensive care and trailblazing research. Consistently ranked among the nation’s top 10 pediatric hospitals, Texas Children’s, in affiliation with Houston’s renowned Baylor College of Medicine, ranks first in National Institute of Health (NIH) research funding for pediatric hospitals, participating in more than 400 groundbreaking research projects.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is ranked as the nation’s top cancer hospital in U.S. News & World Report’s 2008 list of “America’s Best Hospitals,” and has ranked as one of the top two hospitals for cancer care for 19 years.

TIRR MEMORIAL HERMANN REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH
TIRR Memorial Hermann is a 119-bed nonprofit rehabilitation hospital located in the Texas Medical Center. Founded in 1959, TIRR Memorial Hermann has been named one of “America’s Best Hospitals” by U.S. News & World Report for nearly 30 years. TIRR Memorial Hermann provides rehabilitation services for individuals with spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, strokes, amputations and neuromuscular disorders.

ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER DOWNTOWN
No other Houston hospital can claim more than 125 years of caring for area residents. With such a legacy, it’s no surprise that St. Joseph Medical Center has provided many of Texas’ and Houston’s firsts, including becoming the first teaching facility, and the first hospital to offer maternity care, emergency medicine, X-ray imaging, and many other cutting-edge technologies over the years. Today, St. Joseph Medical Center continues to offer a wide range of services, from comprehensive cardiac care, emergency services, obstetrics and robotic surgery to oncology, orthopedics, plastic surgery, mental health services and much more, at its locations Downtown and in the Heights.

MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY VETERAN’S AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN HOUSTON (MEDVAMC)
The Michael E. DeBakey Veteran’s Affairs hospital joined the Texas Medical Center in 1985. The hospital serves as a teaching hospital through its major affiliate, Baylor College of Medicine. It is the primary source of health care for more than 120,000 veterans today. Additionally, the MEDVAMC funds research and has been recognized for its outstanding service and health care for homeless veterans and vocational rehabilitation programs.

KELSEY-SEYBOLD CLINIC
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic’s 20 locations in Houston provide care to patients in varying fields. Kelsey-Seybold physicians offer specialty care in more than 50 specialties and sub-specialties. Houston’s largest and most renowned private multi-specialty physician group was founded by Dr. Mavis Kelsey in 1949. With its network of 20 clinics, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic cares for local families as well as international patients.
## 107 Area Hospitals

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<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Alvin Diagnostic &amp; Urgent Care Center</td>
<td>301 Medic Ln.</td>
<td>Alvin, TX 77511</td>
<td>281-331-6141</td>
<td>admc.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Angleton Danbury Medical Center</td>
<td>132 E. Hospital Dr.</td>
<td>Angleton, TX 77515</td>
<td>979-849-7721</td>
<td>bayshoremhc.com</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Apex Hospital–Katy</td>
<td>25660 Kingsland Blvd.</td>
<td>Katy, TX 77494</td>
<td>281-392-5700</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Bayshore Medical Center</td>
<td>4000 Spencer Highway</td>
<td>Pasadena, TX 77504</td>
<td>713-359-2000</td>
<td>bayshoremhc.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bayside Community Hospital</td>
<td>200 Hospital Dr.</td>
<td>Anahuac, TX 77514</td>
<td>409-267-3143</td>
<td>chambershealth.org</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Behavioral Hospital of Bellaire</td>
<td>5314 Dashwood Dr.</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77081</td>
<td>713-600-9500</td>
<td>bbbhospital.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bellville General Hospital</td>
<td>44 N. Cummings Rd.</td>
<td>Bellville, TX 77418</td>
<td>979-413-7400</td>
<td>st-joseph.org/bellville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ben Taub Hospital</td>
<td>1504 Ben Taub Loop</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77030</td>
<td>713-873-2000</td>
<td>harrishosp.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Brazosport Regional Health System</td>
<td>100 Medical Dr.</td>
<td>Lake Jackson, TX 77566</td>
<td>979-297-4411</td>
<td>brazosporregional.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CHI St. Luke’s Health Baylor</td>
<td>6720 Bertner Ave.</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77030</td>
<td>832-355-1000</td>
<td>chistlukeshealth.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>CHI St. Luke’s Health The Woodlands Hospital</td>
<td>20171 Chasewood Park Dr.</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77070</td>
<td>832-534-5000</td>
<td>thevintagehospital.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>CHI St. Luke’s Patients Medical Center</td>
<td>4605 E. Sam Houston Parkway South</td>
<td>Pasadena, TX 77505</td>
<td>713-948-7000</td>
<td>chistlukeshealth.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>CHI St. Luke’s Sugar Land Hospital</td>
<td>1317 Lake Pointe Parkway</td>
<td>Sugar Land, TX 77478</td>
<td>281-637-7000</td>
<td>chistlukeshealth.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital</td>
<td>6411 Fannin St.</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77030</td>
<td>713-704-5437</td>
<td>childrens.memorialhermann.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>CHRISTUS Dubuis Hospital of Houston</td>
<td>1919 La Branch St., #7</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77002</td>
<td>713-756-8660</td>
<td>christusdubuis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Clear Lake Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>500 W. Medical Center Blvd.</td>
<td>Webster, TX 77598</td>
<td>281-332-2511</td>
<td>clearlakehc.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Conroe Regional Medical Center</td>
<td>504 Medical Center Blvd.</td>
<td>Conroe, TX 77304</td>
<td>936-539-1111</td>
<td>concoregional.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Cornerstone Hospital of Houston – Bellaire</td>
<td>5314 Dashwood Dr.</td>
<td>Houston, TX 77081</td>
<td>713-295-5300</td>
<td>chghospitals.com/hocon-bellaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cornerstone Hospital of Houston – Cleary Lake</td>
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<td>13031 Worham Center Dr.</td>
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<td>18300 St. John Dr.</td>
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<td>ICON Hospital</td>
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<td>Jennie Sealy Hospital</td>
<td>620 Texas Ave.</td>
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<td>Kingwood Medical Center</td>
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<td>Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital</td>
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<td>4301-B Vista Rd.</td>
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We've been calling Houston our home for over 20 years, so we love this city just as much as you do! Our main priority is for you to love your mortgage experience and with rates at historical lows, now is the perfect time to purchase or refinance. Our advanced digital technology is here to get you to the closing table faster!

**Local Presence. National Strength.**

You can find us in 47 states across the U.S. and visit any of our 130 local branches to receive expert loan advice, starting right here in Houston! We don’t just create seamless mortgage transactions; we create a mortgage experience you will LOVE!

**EnGen**
Our intuitive digital mortgage application and user-friendly technology is combined with automatic asset verification and an efficient online closing alternative that shaves up to 12 days off your loan process.

**Extensive Loan Options**
Mortgage loan programs are constantly evolving to reflect market conditions and we have some of the most competitive rates available. It is a great time to take advantage of these current low market rates.

**Customer Satisfaction**
We are very proud of our strong customer satisfaction rating of 4.9 out of 5 and we maintain this by sending real-time updates on your loan status through secure email communication and text alerts.

You can find us at any of our 130 local branches to receive expert loan advice, starting right here in Houston! We don’t just create seamless mortgage transactions; we create a mortgage experience you will LOVE!

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